

THE TIMES

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20p

Tomorrow

Thatcher... As the Tories rally round at Blackpool, Fiona MacCarthy reviews Penny Junor's new biography of Margaret Thatcher.



...and Co
Economic policy, employment, defence: the Tory timetable at the conference
Turning in
The Times Profile: Radio 3
Turning out
Stuart Jones and David Miller report on England's crucial European Championship match against Hungary in Budapest
Looking back
1984 and all that: a new look at Orwell's chilling words

Monetary growth on target

Monetary growth is back on target after the Government's main measure of money supply fell for the first time in four years. Sterling M3 fell half a percentage point last month. But state spending and borrowing are still well ahead of plans.

Stock exchange backs reform

Members of the Stock Exchange voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution which will allow lay members to sit on the Council of the Stock Exchange for the first time.

Howe happy

EEC ministers in Athens were able to agree only that reforms needed further detailed study by experts. Sir Geoffrey Howe alone detected real progress.



New Jaguar

Jaguar unveiled its first open-topped sports car since the E-type went out of production.

Airbus order

British Caledonian is the first airline to order the European Airbus A320. Three of the seven 150-seaters will be delivered in 1988.

China joins

China has been admitted to membership of the International Atomic Agency, which operates safeguards and inspections on civil nuclear reactors.

Carson banned

Willie Carson, the former champion jockey, was suspended for 12 days by the Jockey Club for careless riding at Beverley last month.

Leader page 15
Letters: On Mr Parkinson, from Mr A B Ducker, and others; Government's record, from Mr Bryan Gould, MP
Leading articles: Law and order; Tories and defence; South Korea
Features, pages 10-12
James Prior defends his role as government gadfly; Bernard Levin on a theatre of the absurd; the British Library white elephant. Spectrum watches this top Tory woman
Australia: a four-page Special Report on the performance of the new Labour government under Bob Hawke 17-20

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Police killers will serve at least 20 years - Brittan

- Minimum 20-year sentences are to be imposed on certain killers under proposals announced by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.
- Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to coal mining and disputed claims that it wants to destroy the industry.
- Miss Sara Keays, who is expecting Mr Cecil Parkinson's baby, narrowly missed becoming the Conservative candidate at the Southwark, Bermondsey by-election.
- Conservatives remain divided over whether Mr Parkinson should resign. He was praised for his election work and condemned as a "self-confessed adulterer".
- The Government is considering giving tenants of charities the right to buy their homes, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing, announced.
- No workable alternative system of loyal taxation has emerged to replace rates, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said.

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Blackpool

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, presented the Conservative Party Conference at Blackpool yesterday with measures that will ensure that about five hundred hard-core killers and violent offenders will spend extended terms in prison.

But, in a highly delicate political operation, delivered before a notoriously hardline audience, Mr Brittan managed to temper his toughness with more than a touch of mercy for non-violent offenders. That mercy could lead eventually to an overall reduction of 2,000 in the prison population, which is now 44,163.

It was a measure of the Home Secretary's skill that by last night he had won the endorsement of right-wing Tory backbenchers and of Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik, the Labour chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group.

Mr Brittan failed to win a standing ovation, but the applause was adequate vindication of his balancing act. Representatives appeared willing to suspend judgment despite their undoubted frustration at Parliament's failure to reintroduce capital punishment.

Effective and purposeful policing was of prime importance, he said, but public confidence in the criminal justice system required sentences that reflected "society's deep abhorrence of violent crime".

Then came the spate of decisions. With immediate effect people convicted of the murder of police and prison officers, terrorist murderers, those convicted of the sexual or sadistic murder of children, and criminals who killed with firearms in the course of robbery would serve a minimum sentence of 20 years in jail.

Union steps up fight against Telecom

Further disruptive action affecting government and business communications will be taken by the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) this week as part of their fight against the privatisation of British Telecom (BT).

Leaders of the union were last night called to a meeting with Sir George Jefferson, chairman of BT to discuss deteriorating industrial relations.

By yesterday between 2,000 and 2,500 members of the union were in dispute with BT. Around 1,600 have been involved in action in international telephone exchanges. The rest have been taking action against Mercury, the private communications network.

Details of the new disruptive action were being kept secret by the executive of POEU, but international satellite links and select operations are known to be prime targets. City institutions who may be involved in the intended flotation of BT can expect to be singled out.

British Telecom reported yesterday that international telephone exchanges were back to normal with the help of senior management. But the union contended that there was widespread disruption affecting the Middle and Far East and Africa. The situation was deteriorating, POEU said.

The 1600 engineers in international exchanges were sent home at the end of last week after working to rule since the previous Monday. This Monday many of them refused to sign a document pledging that they would obey management instructions and were then suspended.

The rest of the trade unionists in dispute work mainly in the three London inland exchanges. Some of these have been sent home for refusing to connect the BT network to Mercury. Others were deemed to be taking industrial action by management for refusing to sign the document.

Mr Peter Walker gave a warning yesterday that the Conservative Party must retain its position in the centre ground of politics or risk losing the next general election.

In a plea to the Government to present a more caring public image, Mr Walker made a powerful statement of traditional Conservative "one nation" values, told the party to apply them to the 1980s and highlighted the divisions in society.

"The Conservative Party must be the party of national unity or it is nothing", Mr Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told a Tory Reform Group meeting at the party conference in Blackpool.

The speech was the first of a series by leading "wets" this week urging the Government to emphasize its concern for the poor, needy, homeless, and other disadvantaged groups, and to come to terms with the public expenditure implications of the increasing number of people receiving state benefits.

It reflects concern among many Tory MPs over the Government's handling of the recently announced health service manpower cuts and the fear that its public face may be hardening. Today, Sir Ian Gilmour, the former Cabinet minister, will continue on the same line when he speaks on the theme "Is Toryism Dead?" to another fringe meeting.

Mr Walker said Labour was bound to become a more effective opponent than it was



Mr Walker: "Shun narrow sectional interests"

Packing up troubles in a Marine's kitbag

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Saros Bay, Turkey

Many Royal Marines on a Nato exercise in Turkey are carrying up to £150 worth of their own equipment because they say their standard issue kit is unsatisfactory.

Several complained of a combat boot first issued last year, which they claim falls apart after a few months. That was demonstrated yesterday by a member of 40 Commando, who lay in a Turkish field and put a knife between the sole and upper.

The Marines are taking part in an exercise called "Display Determination" and are advancing inland after an amphibious landing with Turkish forces on the northern shores of Saros Bay, within sight of the Gallipoli peninsula.

Apart from concerns with their boots, several have bought their own rucksacks for about £80 because they say the standard issue bag is too small and uncomfortable.

Other complaints concern the solid fuel stove, which they say is smoky and smelly, and waterproof equipment. Some have bought camping gas stoves for £15 and waterproof jackets for £40. With other privately-bought equipment such as mess tins and socks, the outlay can total £150.

Some even spent a further £50 special underwear when operating in Arctic conditions.

But the boot is the really painful story for the Marines. They claim that although 17,000 pairs were rejected last year because of manufacturing defects, the new ones still fall apart.

A Royal Marine spokesman in Britain admitted there were some drawbacks in equipment, but added: "In general our total package is better than most armies. In 14 years' service I have never had to buy any equipment."

He said one of the problems was that they had to compromise because they could not use Arctic equipment in the Mediterranean and vice versa. He added that a new rucksack that could be separated to enable a man to change rapidly into fighting order was to be issued soon.



Mr Brittan announcing his measures at Blackpool (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Miss Keays 'nearly the Bermondsey candidate'

By Richard Dowden

Miss Sara Keays, Mr Cecil Parkinson's former secretary who is expecting his child in January, narrowly missed becoming the Conservative parliamentary candidate in last February's by-election in Southwark, Bermondsey, after the local party executive was persuaded to reopen the selection process.

Miss Keays had lost the nomination by one vote to Mr Peter Davis. A week after that selection conference, Mr Robert Mottish, the Labour MP, resigned, and forced a by-election. Mr Davis decided that his business commitments prevented him from fighting the by-election and resigned.

Some members of the local party executive, some sources say a majority, wanted Miss Keays to assume the candidature. However, at a meeting of the nine members of the executive on November 2, attended by the party agent, Miss Rose Freeman, and an official from the Conservative Central Office, it was decided to go through a full selection process.

A short list was drawn up with three names: Mr John Maples, Mr Tony Patterson and Mr Robert Hughes. Mr Hughes, the eventual candidate, had been asked to put his name forward by Mr Ian MacLeod, the area party chairman. Miss Keays's name was not on that initial list but was added to it after the party had interviewed between 30 and 40 potential candidates.

Miss Betty North, chairman of the Southwark and Bermondsey Constituency Conservative Association, said yesterday that she could not remember whether the representative from Central Office had argued in favour of reopening selection or simply adopting Miss Keays.

Among the reasons given by local party members for Miss Keays's failure to secure the nomination are that they did not want a woman to stand against Mr Peter Tatchell, the Labour candidate; that she did not know enough about inner cities; that she was using the candidature to gain experience and that she intended to move on.

However, her supporters felt that she was the "local" candidate of a constituency party that was strongly independent and this should have earned her the nomination.

Mr MacLeod, London area chairman, stressed the need for a strong candidate in urging Mr Hughes to run. He pointed out that the Conservative party had had two bad by-election results, at Crosby and in Peckham, where weak candidates were thought to have played a part.

Mr Ian MacLeod, chairman of the Greater London Area Conservatives, said in Blackpool last night: "At no time did the local party receive instructions from me that anything other than the proper procedures for reselection should take place."

"There was no question of any second-placed person, whoever that might be, being offered the chance."

"In accordance with National Union model rules a complete reselection would be necessary. Constituency parties jealously guard their autonomy. It is common knowledge that any 'direction' from Central Office is tantamount to a kiss of death."

The continuing division of opinion within the Conservative Party as to whether Mr Cecil Parkinson should stay in office or resign was painfully exposed yesterday (Julian Haviland, Our Political Editor, writes).

His achievements as chairman were warmly applauded by most representatives on the

Continued on back page, col 6

Police kill Korean in Burma

Rangoon (Reuters) - Burmese police claimed to have killed one Korean terrorist, captured another and to be seeking a third, after the bomb blast here in which 20 people died.

A government announcement last night gave no details of the Koreans, and did not say whether they came from North or South Korea.

The captured Korean was seriously wounded when a grenade he tried to throw at his pursuers exploded at Bagan-daw Creek in eastern Rangoon on Monday night. The alarm had been raised by local residents, who reported seeing a man swimming down the creek.

A second incident occurred when villages in Thakupin, six miles north-west of Rangoon, informed police about two suspicious-looking foreigners. The two men were arrested but one of them managed to throw a grenade which wounded three policemen. Police shot and killed him, but the other Korean escaped.

Photograph, page 5
Leading article, page 15

Ulster yard seeks 'lost' £4m contract

From Our Correspondent Belfast

Harland & Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilders, are likely to make a bid today to take over the £4m share of a Ministry of Defence order for the Falkland Islands which Sunderland Shipbuilders, the Weirside subsidiary of British Shipbuilders has surrendered because of a three-week unofficial strike.

Only last week H & W announced that they had a separate share of the project to build a floating harbour for Port Stanley. The entire "flexiport" is due for delivery in only 14 weeks.

Yesterday, Harland & Wolff chairman Mr John Parker said: "We have already been asked whether we could take on Sunderland Shipbuilders' share. Clearly, it is something we will have to decide within 24 hours. My main concern is whether we could complete it within 14 weeks without prejudicing work on the part of the project we already have."

"Public memories are short and if we missed the delivery date people would not recall that it was because Sunderland Shipbuilders had a strike, it would simply be noted as Harland & Wolff falling down", said Mr Parker.

He said he was to spend the afternoon seeing whether a local Northern Ireland consortium could be put together.

Jobs at the Pallion yard in Sunderland are certain to be lost when the strike ends, Mr Eric Welsh, the managing director of the company, said yesterday.

Three initiatives by the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions to end the deadlock have failed and the 2,000 strikers, angry about a productivity payment made to 40 crane drivers at the yard, have ignored pleas to return to work.

The look of a gentleman



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Contempt for authority led David Martin to 25-year jail sentence

By John Withers

When David Martin was in prison, one story relates, the guards would regularly find his cell door open in the morning with Martin lying on his bunk, gazing at the ceiling and whistling nonchalantly.

The story illustrates two important influences in Martin's life that led him to notoriety and yesterday's prison sentence of 25 years: a remarkable ability with locks and an overriding contempt for authority.

The first facilitated a life of crime and the second, when coupled with a fascination with guns, turned him from a fleeting period into Britain's most wanted man.

But Martin's sudden elevation to the front pages came not as a result of his shooting of Police Constable Nicholas Carr on his daring escape from Marylebone Magistrates' Court, but because another man, Stephen Waldorf, was mistakenly shot by police instead of him.

It was that shooting, and the impending trial of two policemen, which cast a shadow over the trial of Martin and focused attention on a man who would normally get only a few column inches.

Everyone who knows Martin agrees that he is a strange, complicated personality. The police, used to dealing with "ordinary villains", were perplexed by his self-confessed transgressive coupled with an apparently violent nature.

They also found it hard to understand his total disregard for his own safety. One policeman said: "I couldn't relate to him. He's a cold guy, very calculating. He's different, intriguing even."

An acquaintance, asked what pushed Martin into crime, replied: "He's got a grudge against society and he vents it by breaking laws."

That grudge, which came through in his resentment and sarcasm while he was in the witness box, stems from Martin's personality and his deep grievance over an eight-year prison sentence he received for forgery and fraud.

According to the acquaintance, his attitude then became: "If they give me that sort of sentence for a trifle, I'll behave like a real criminal."

While he was inside he never accepted the prison regime and in 1974 took part in a mass escape from Brixton but he was recaptured in a taxi in Streatham. He received an extra 12 months and went on to serve a total of nine years, earning no remission.

While in prison he made 10 moves, and spent much of his time in top-security jails including Parkhurst in the Isle of Wight. Prison undoubtedly made a strong impact on Martin and in the opinion of the prosecution, may have made him prepared to use any means, including guns, to prevent his arrest and further confinement.

Before that Martin had drifted into petty crime, gradually getting convicted for more serious offences. The only child of a close family in north London, where his father was a plumber and fitter, Martin was caught stealing petrol and a motor cycle when he was 15. Two years later he spent three months in a detention centre for punching a policeman during a fight outside a club. At school he passed O levels in physics, metalwork and technical drawing and worked later as a motor mechanic.

In 1969 he was sentenced to 21 months for fraud and handling stolen goods, and in 1973 he was sentenced to eight years. Martin emerged in September, 1981, and within months was again drawn to

crime, but this time he started handling guns.

He used his ability with locks to break into several premises and became involved in video piracy. Then a friend suggested, according to Martin, that he take part in a cash snatch from a security van. It was soon after that raid, in which Martin said he did not know his accomplice had guns, that he shot PC Carr during a struggle.

Before the shooting Martin gave the police the name of David Demain, a pseudonym that he often used. In retrospect, as Martin pointed out in the box, it seemed surprising that the police took another six weeks to trace him to his flat in Crawford Place, just off the Edgware Road in west London. He said his driving licence was registered in the name of Demain but apparently no check was made.

When Martin was challenged outside his flat he drew two handguns and was shot in the neck by police. Despite his wound he continued fighting - hoping to be "finished off", he told the court.

Martin's apparent death wish was a constant theme in the trial. He told the jury he had considered jumping in front of a Tube train during the chase before his second arrest and had hidden a knife in his mouth with the intention of cutting his throat.

The prosecution tried to depict him as a highly intelligent and dangerous criminal, but that view was disputed by a friend who said that Martin was never a killer, just someone who liked to convince people he was ruthless.

"He simply doesn't care", he added. "David is resigned to going back to prison." The difference this time, though, is that Martin is reputed to have told his guards that he will not remain locked up for long.



Rich pickings: The first bins of grapes at Waldron Vineyards, Heathfield, East Sussex, showing the rare but sought after noble rot, promise a bumper harvest of fine quality. Mrs Gay Biddlecombe right, a cofounder of the business, says. She is being helped by Miss Debbie Pennington, left. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Overcharging lawyer not guilty of fraud

Mr Glanville Davies, a solicitor who overcharged a client by £131,000 was not guilty of deliberate fraud, a High Court judge said yesterday.

The Welsh solicitor, a former member of the Council of the Law Society, had sent his client, Leslie Parsons, a bill for £198,000. That was later reduced to £67,000 by the High Court costing official.

Now Mr Parsons is asking Mr Justice Vinelott to order that Mr Davies be struck off. Mr Davies's counsel, Mr Michael Turner, QC, said yesterday that although Mr Davies was not resisting the striking-off move - which he did not consent but accepted as

inevitable - his admission related only to negligence over the costs bill.

The judge said that although Mr Davies had admitted that his conduct in submitting the bill amounted to gross and persistent professional misconduct, there was no suggestion that he was guilty of deliberate fraud.

Mr Parsons, aged 69, of Green Trees, Llan Hwl, Carmarthen, is also seeking to recover from Mr Davies, a solicitor for 38 years, of Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Dyfed, the "substantial" costs of his case against him.

The hearing continues today.

TV satellite set for weekend debut

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The first satellite available to beam commercial television pictures into Britain and most of western Europe is expected to become fully operational on Saturday.

The European Communication Satellite (ECS1), was launched successfully in June from Kourou, in French Guyana by the Ariane rocket of the European Space Agency. Two of its channels have been allocated to Britain: Satellite Television, which is 65 per cent owned by News International, has one; a customer for the other is being selected.

Three days later - on October 18 - the Ariane rocket, again launched from French Guyana, will carry its first Intelsat satellite. The other recent launches of the satellites in this global communications network have been provided by the American Delta Centaur rocket.

The Intelsat V is to be the latest in a network of satellites, now numbering 17, in apparently static "geostationary" orbits 22,300 miles above the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, carrying over 60 per cent of international telecommunications traffic.

The European satellite (ECS1) will not carry television pictures until the end of the year.

Plan to cut Crown Court delays

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A "profound change" in the way criminals are handled is to be tried out in six Crown Court centres.

New procedures, being introduced for a six-month experiment starting on November 1, are intended to cut delays by exchanging more information between prosecution and defence.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, launching the pilot project, says: "The scheme should stimulate people to prepare cases as soon after committal as possible, so that the plea may be discovered and the real issues which will concern the jury may be identified."

Lord Justice Watkins, whose working party on the criminal trial produced the proposals, says that in the first eight months of this year, compared with a similar period in 1982, the number of cases committed to the Crown Court increased from 42,890 to 47,168, enough extra work to keep a court occupied for 27 years.

The working party's report says the parties already give the court some information for listing purposes. "We have adapted and expanded the present Crown Court listing information form so as to include a wider range of information."

One form to be filled in by the defendant's solicitor is intended to inform everyone as early as possible whether a case will be fought.

Defence counsel will fill in a second form requiring a commitment to a plea of guilty or not guilty in advance of the trial.

A third form not intended for use in all cases, will be issued on the instruction of the judges at a Crown Court centre and filled in by counsel.

The pilot project will take place at the following Crown Court centres: Central Criminal Court, Acton, Bristol, Carlisle, Chester and Warwick.

Mothers 'want more advice on birth'

By Diane Gackert

More than a third of new mothers are dissatisfied with their labour and delivery according to a birth survey.

Fewer than half of the 7,500 women surveyed felt they could ask doctors all the questions they wanted, and one in ten felt she could ask hardly any questions at all. Parents magazine reported yesterday.

The survey welcomed improvements in medical care and consultation. More than 80 per cent of fathers were present at the birth, compared with 72 per cent in 1981, when the magazine conducted its last survey. Most of those who were absent were at home taking care of older children.

But mothers felt a lack of essential advice. "Having a baby in Britain today can be a wonderful or a disappointing experience", the magazine said. "In general, mothers wanted more information, more choice

in what happens to them and to be treated as individuals."

More than 40 per cent said they received no advice about taking medicines, 50 per cent no information on maternity benefits and 60 per cent no advice on alcohol consumption. Younger and first-time mothers were found to be especially in distress, and relied twice as much on books and pamphlets as on the advice of medical staff.

The lack of choice over hospitals, painkillers and delivery methods was a widespread complaint. Fewer than half the women had a choice of hospital, the survey reported.

The survey also revealed variations between regions. For example, ante-natal clinics in Scotland and the South-west had the shortest waiting times, and there was more choice of hospitals in London.

Firm halves price of video film

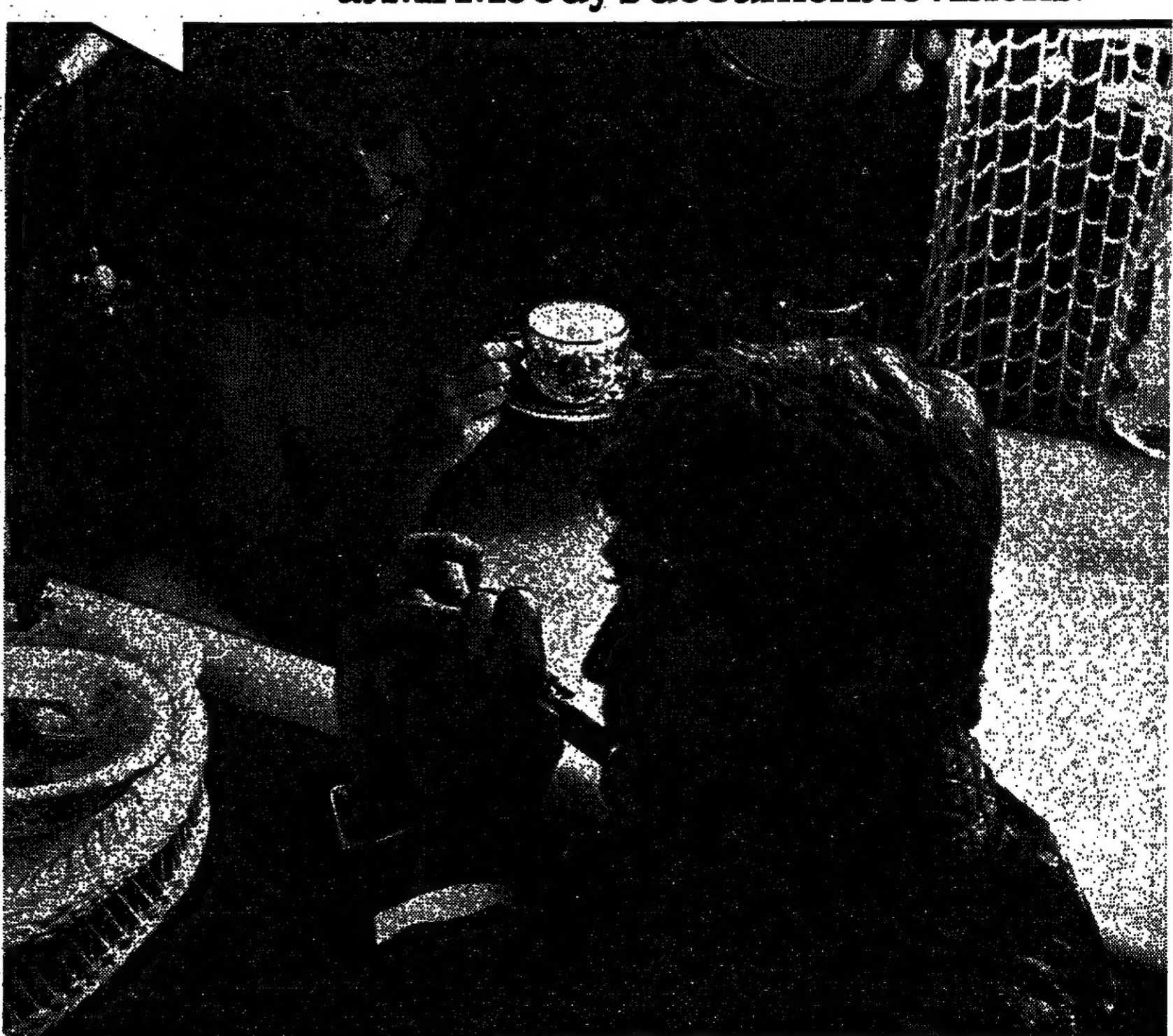
By Christopher Warner, Arts Correspondent

A leading video company is to reduce the price of a recent box office hit film on video cassette by about half in an attempt to encourage people to buy rather than rent video films.

CIC Video, owned by Paramount and Universal Films, is to offer Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* at £19.99 or less compared with a price of up to £45, when it goes on sale before Christmas.

At present the video market is almost exclusively rental, and cut-throat competition among high street traders has meant "unrealistically low" rental charges, according to Mr Laurie Hall, managing director of CIC Video. Charges on average are down to £1.50 to £2, and in some cases as low as 50p to 75p for a night's rental.

"And to think I might still be bashing away at Mr Moody's document revisions."



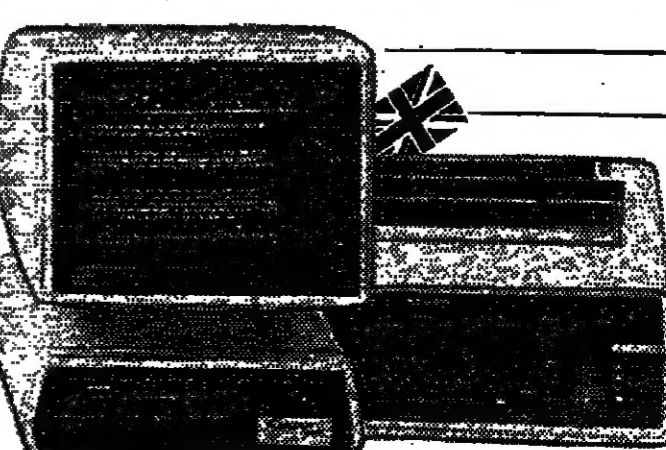
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Vets 'shut eyes' on herpes

By Thomson Practice

Fundamental sterilization procedures were not taken at a Newmarket veterinary surgery leading to the spread of a herpes virus which caused the death of nine horses, it was claimed in the High Court in London, yesterday.

The allegation was made by Mr Edward Cazelet, QC, representing Mrs Marion Meade, and her daughter, the owners of the Ballintober Stud at Carlton, Newmarket, who are claiming damages of around £100,000 from the practice of Day and Partners, the longest-established veterinary practice in Newmarket.

Mr Cazelet said: "There were oral admissions later by members of the practice accepting that the disease was contracted

as a result of contact with an infected animal at the surgery. But until then the defendants were 'shutting their eyes to reality and hoping against hope that all this would be swept under the carpet'."

Mrs Meade and her daughter, Miss Breffny Meade claim that as a result of veterinary negligence some of their horses contracted a form of equine herpes known as EHV1 which attacks the central nervous system. They are claiming compensation for three of nine horses which have died since the outbreak of the virus in 1979.

It is alleged that members of the practice were negligent in allowing a horse with symptoms of the virus to come into

contact with horses from the Meade's stud at their surgery, and then allowing those animals to return to spread the infection among others at the stud.

Yesterday, Mr Cazelet said that one of the Meades mares, Tiny Alice, was placed in a box next to a horse from another stud which was later found to be the source of the virus. No preventative steps were taken and Tiny Alice was allowed to return to stud.

Miss Meade, aged 35, was the first witness called yesterday. She read extracts from her diary recording the deteriorating condition of Tiny Alice in the week after the mare was returned from the surgery in Newmarket.

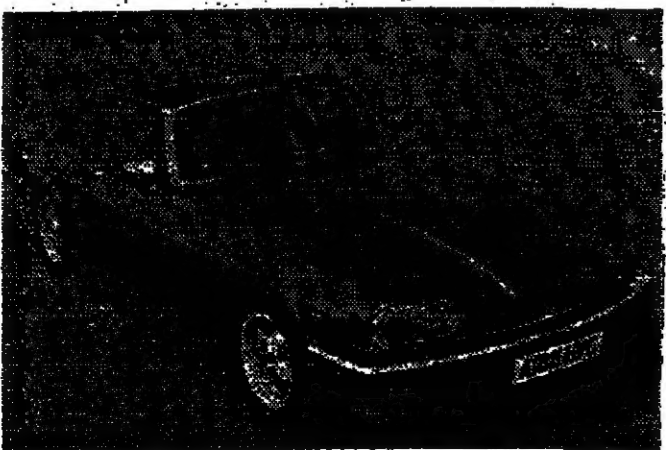
The case continues today.

Jaguar unveils open-top

Jaguar Cars today launches its first open-top sports car since the famous E-type went out of production nine years ago. The XJ-S 3.6 litre Cabriolet is powered by a remarkable new all-alloy engine which is at the heart of Jaguar's new model strategy for the next decade (Clifford Webb, Our Motoring Correspondent, writes).

With twin overhead camshafts operating four valves per cylinder, the six-cylinder AJ6 engine is based on Grand Prix practice. It is only the third new Jaguar engine in more than 30 years, develops 225bhp compared with 285bhp for the present XK 4.2 litre unit and is 30 per cent lighter. In the Cabriolet, it has a maximum speed of 142mph, and a 0-60mph time of 7.6 seconds.

The biggest advance, however, is in fuel economy. The new engine will return a comfortable 25mpg compared with 18 for the existing engine. It was to achieve that, more than anything else, that Jaguar



The new Jaguar 3.6 litre Cabriolet

spent £30m to install a new, highly automated production line with a weekly capacity of more than 1,000 engines, at its works in Radford, Coventry.

That is double the existing capacity and will not be operating at full stretch until the appearance of the new XJ-40 saloon which, originally planned for launch next year, is being held back because of the continuing demand for present models.

The Cabriolet is based on the existing XJ-S 3.3 litre 12-cylinder sports coupé. The body, without roof and rear panels, is completed at Jaguar's Castle Bromwich plant and shipped to

the Park Sheet Metal Company in Coventry for conversion into a cabriolet with twin roll hove.

A novel solution for the old problem of stealing from open topped cars is the use of large twin lockable storage bins behind the front seats.

The Cabriolet costs £20,756, but a fully enclosed version of the XJ-S with the new smaller engine instead of the existing 12-cylinder unit is available for £506 less. Both are fitted as standard with the German-made Getrag five-speed manual gearbox. Automatic versions are expected later.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

Law and order

Tribute to Parkinson

Right to buy

Worst murderers will serve minimum of 20 years, Brittan says

Murderers, terrorists and all violent criminals face longer prison sentences in future, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary said yesterday in the law and order debate, at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool.

Violent criminals and drug traffickers sentenced to more than five years will not be eligible for parole.

In cases where he judged that the release of a prisoner would endanger the public, the person would not be released. Life would mean life.

Mr Brittan listed other types of murder which would carry a minimum sentence of 20 years: Murders of police and prison officers, terrorist murders, sex or sadistic murders of children and those committed on armed robbery. The announcements were greeted with loud applause.

These measures demonstrated that those who preyed on their fellow citizens did so at their peril, Mr Brittan said.

Mr Richard Ball, for the Greater London area council, opening the debate, said that during the election campaign ten times as many people asked about law and order as about the economy, unemployment or any other issue.

Mr Bull moved a motion which recognized the progress made in increasing the numbers and effectiveness of the police but called on

the Government to take further measures to strengthen the force of the law "in order to reverse, and finally eradicate, the growing wave of lawlessness in Britain."

He said that the debate had aroused intense interest in the media, possibly because they were looking forward to the traditional Tory spout of law and order.

But the media must also recognize that law and order was one of the great concerns of the public.

It was surprising that the other parties had not debated it at their conferences. The Liberals and SDP seemed too tied up with internal wrangling and the Labour Party debated the police, he said.

The majority of crimes, especially muggings, burglaries and vandalism, were committed by young people - but it was not because their character had changed, as the young soldiers in the Falklands had shown.

He did not agree with those who thought unemployment was to blame because unemployment might go up or down, but crime always rose.

They must, therefore, look elsewhere for an explanation for the increase in crime. One place to look was in schools. Once they had imposed discipline and taught respect for society's values and for the law, "Does anyone still believe they do today?" he asked.

The Home Secretary and other ministers should make sure schools did impose the right discipline and respect for the law.

Let us make our view plain: Stiffer sentences do work, they do deter (applause).

Mr Nicholas Bennett, Gillingham, said that the conference should show that it was in favour of strong punishments for violent crime. "In too many cases the prisoner is out of prison before the victim is out of hospital and that cannot be right" (Applause).

There were cheers when Mr Bennett said that he did not agree with the decision taken by the House of Commons not to reintroduce capital punishment, and when he asked how Conservative MPs could argue the case for multilateral disarmament on the basis of deterrent and then argue

that the same principle of deterrent did not work on the individual. If IRA gunmen knew they were going to be caught, the death penalty would deter the vast majority of them (cheers).

Mr Jim Jardine, former chairman of the Police Federation said the Home Secretary should allow the police to do the job they were appointed to do and not tie their hands by regulations.

The people had the strong police service they expected. All that was

Reports from Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, Gordon Wellman, Howard Underwood, and Barbara Day

needed was the support of Parliament. Lacking on capital punishment, in the case of the new Police Bill.

Mr Brittan commended the motion to the conference, saying that it contained recognition of the progress that had been made with a vigorous spur towards further action. That was a challenge he readily accepted.

In the first term of office the fight against the evil of inflation was the Government's most fundamental task. In the second term the fight against crime was the key task for

"There is today a great wave of anger against the wanton violence which disfigures our society. That anger is not confined to this conference and party. It is real, it is genuine, I share it to the full."

The Conservative Party was seen by millions of people as the only party willing to stand up to the men of violence, the terrorist, the thug, the child molester, he said.

The public had shown its confidence in the party. He was determined that confidence would not be betrayed (applause).

That would require action, not just words - and action there would be.

The Government would encourage developments like the "neighbourhood watch" schemes in London.

Sentencing was of vital importance. The police and courts could be effective only if the law was upheld if public confidence in the

system was strong. Sentences which failed to reflect society's deep abhorrence of violent crime undermined that confidence and weakened the criminal justice system.

Mr Brittan said that the public did not desire revenge but justice to be done and to be seen to be done. Tough sentences for the worst crimes were essential, but they were not sufficient.

"You have to catch the criminal before you can punish him." There were now more than 10,000 more policemen in England and Wales and many more of them were back on the beat. In London 650 policemen were being moved from desks to the streets, to combat crime and above all to prevent it.

But to do that effectively the police must have the powers they need to enforce the law. That was why he would shortly reintroduce the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

There would be some important changes, but its aim remained better enforcement of the law, combined with surer guarantees of the citizen's rights.

The Home Secretary announced that he was introducing the following measures: Life sentences no life prisoner to be released except by the Home Secretary.

"In any case where I judge that there is a risk to the public, release is simply not an option. In such cases a life sentence may indeed mean life."

"The paramount consideration that I should always have in mind will be the safety of the public and not, I am afraid, in these cases the interests of the individual criminal." (applause).

Mr Eastwood added: "A small army of full-time staff will be sent to the most of the money, the jobs going to people who only have to demonstrate a 'positive commitment', which must mean a lengthy association with the police group, and I suppose it helps to have had a few convictions for obstruction as campaign medals."

These groups, he said, "will actually compete with the official Labour committee to capture the hearts and minds of impressionable youngsters in the inner city."

Mr Brittan said that the much-quoted figure for the average period served before release was a misleading one for it took no account of all those who remained in prison.

"Nevertheless, I am taking specific further steps now to make it clear that those who commit some of the very worst types of murder will serve a very long time indeed."

He accordingly today specifying the minimum period which would normally be served by prisoners in certain categories. I emphasize that this is a minimum period only. There will be cases where the gravity of the offence requires a still longer period."

"We must stand up to violence"

Recalling that during the Commons capital punishment debate he announced that those who murdered police officers could normally expect to serve at least 20 years, the Home Secretary said: "Those who murder police officers are also killing people who are in the front line of the battle against crime. They too, can expect to serve at least 20 years" (Applause).

Mr Brittan continued: "Terrorist murderers for their part seek to destroy the very fabric of our society. They aim to secure by violence what they cannot obtain by the ballot box."

"They are the bitter and sworn enemies of a free society. It is for that reason that they, too, must serve at least 20 years in prison (applause). Many of them will serve very much longer."

"There are two further categories of murder where I think it right to specify clearly a minimum period, which those who perpetrate the offences can expect to serve."

"Those who commit sexual or sadistic murders of children, are guilty of acts of a peculiarly repellant character. It is right that they, too, should expect to serve at least 20 years in prison (applause)."

"There is also widespread and justifiable concern about criminals who carry firearms when committing robberies and shoot someone in order to get away from the scene of the crime. It is essential that those who behave in that way should know that they will be in prison for a far longer period than if they had committed the robbery but had left their guns at home."

"I intend that such murderers should also serve at least 20 years (applause)."

"Murders other than the ones I have specified cover too wide a range of circumstances to be readily categorized. But some will be every bit as serious as those I singled out," Mr Brittan said.

Mr Brittan said that he was particularly concerned about the rapid growth of crimes involving firearms. The number of armed robberies had increased four fold between 1971 and 1981.

"I shall be bringing forward legislation to increase the maximum sentence for carrying firearms in furtherance of crime from fourteen years to life imprisonment."

At present the Court of Appeal could not rule that a sentence was too lenient. He would, therefore, introduce legislation, as part of the Bill on the independent prosecution service, to allow the Attorney General to refer over-lenient sentences.

Although the original sentence would not be altered, it would make clear what the correct punishment should be for similar cases.

There was growing public criticism about the growing gap between the length of sentence passed and that served. People wanted to know with some certainty what a sentence would mean in practice, he said.

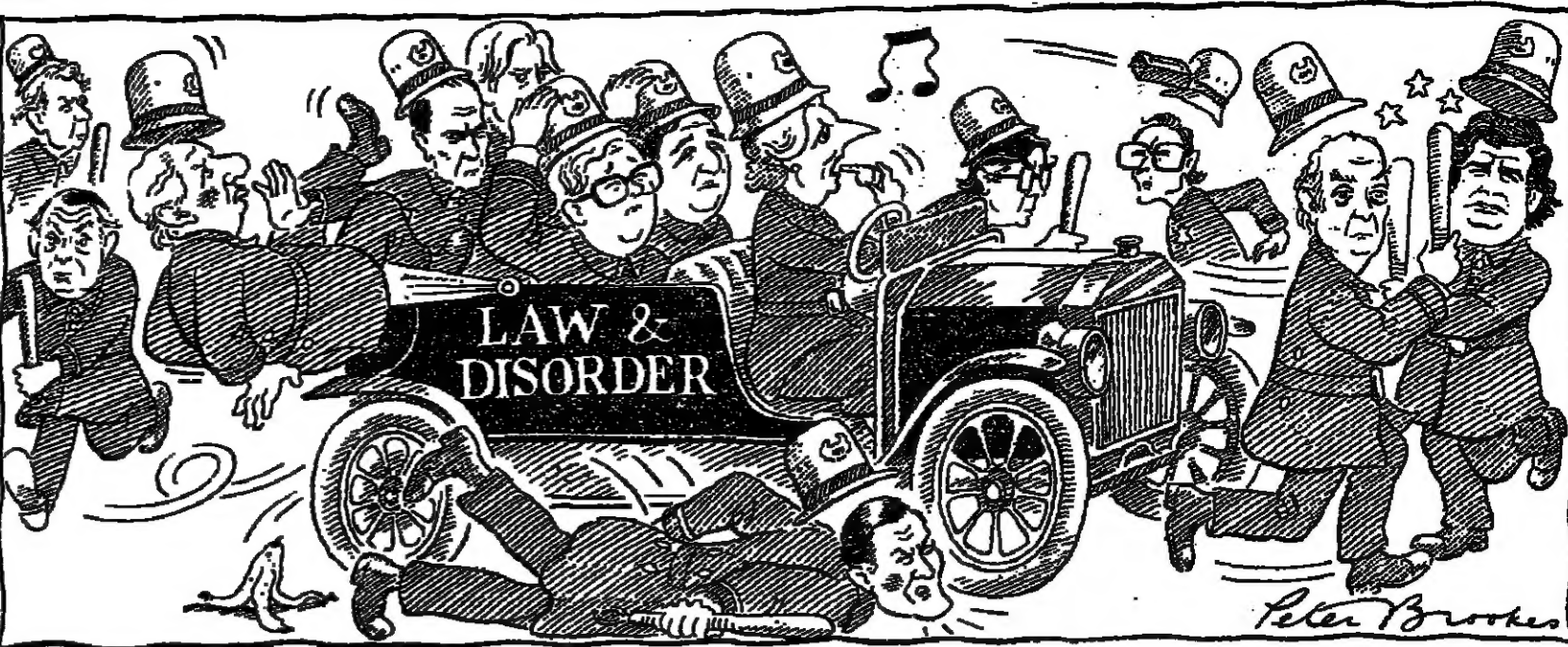
"Our opponents and critics will be united in attacking our attempt to reassert law and order and decency. But we too must be united."

"Our party alone challenges the indiscipline in our schools which has led to disorder in our streets. We need to defend life and property. Whatever the threat and whatever the consequences."

"Our mission is to defend the rule of law and the values of freedom wherever they are in peril."

The motion was carried by a large majority.

Leading article, page 15



Keynote Kops

Rate system 'must be changed'

No alternative had emerged as a better system than rates, which remained the least unsatisfactory local tax, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in defending the selective scheme of rate limitation, backed up by reserve powers for general rate capping, which he had announced in August.

The search for a workable alternative to rates had drawn a blank, the Secretary of State said. The Government was determined to make the system fair and equitable to all ratepayers.

A motion later carried overwhelmingly, urging the Government to introduce legislation to change the existing rating system and make it more fair and equitable to those who paid rates, was moved by Mr John Stanbury, Chertsey and Walton.

He said radical realignment of the system was required, rather than the abolition of the 1979 manifesto promise that the Conservatives would ease the rates burden.

In most areas rates went on rising. The White Paper on rate capping was a start, but it was not enough.

Mr Steve Smith, Spelthorne Young Conservatives, said the party should not mess about fiddling with the current system. It was beyond hope and should be replaced.

Mr Stuart Dawson, Sheffield Hallam, said defiance of government directives was looked upon as a victory symbol by Socialist-dominated local councils.

Mr Michael Davis, Chester, senior manager in a large company, said the Government's proposal to cap the rates was being attacked by the local government lobby on the ground that it reduced local democratic accountability, but on the accountability test the rating system failed miserably. He was not asking for a business vote but for protection for business ratepayers.

Mr Lewis Moss, Association of County Councils, said they urged the Government not to proceed with its rate capping legislation, but to work to make it more fair and equitable.

Mr Jenkin, replying to the debate, said the debate had been an admirable redefinition of the problem, by illustrating that agreement on any radical change was as far away as ever.

Only a few hard-line Labour councils were responsible for the really serious overspending. Soaring rates were a problem for many ratepayers.

No alternative to rates examined by the select committee of MPs had emerged as a better system. In each of the problems outweighed the advantages.

Abolition of the worst overspenders was not by itself enough. The manifesto committed them to take powers to cap the rates, and he had announced a selective scheme of rate limitation backed up by reserve powers for general rate capping.

Those who thought it unnecessary should ask the ratepayers in the middle, Mr Jenkin said. Labour councillors or Labour MPs were being oppressed and Parliament had a duty to protect people from the oppressor.

Companies paid almost half the rates but did not have the rates. The Government would make it a legal duty for councils to consult businesses before striking a rate.

New party chairman pays warm tribute to his 'outstanding' predecessor

The only difference between Mr Michael Foot, Labour's former leader, and Mr Neil Kinnock, its new leader, was 30 years, Mr John Selwyn Gummer said in his first speech to the conference as chairman of the Conservative Party.

He received the first standing ovation at Blackpool for a speech in which he said the people of Britain did not believe the Old Pretenders of the Labour Party, and the Conservatives must not let the people be misled by the young ones. Long might it be a dream ticket, for the reality might be a nightmare for Britain.

In looking back to the election victory in June, Mr Gummer paid many tributes but the most tumultuous reception came from the representatives when he acknowledged the debt of gratitude the Conservative Party owed to the man who had planned and conducted the campaign, Mr Cecil Parkinson.

Mr Gummer, who is under-secretary of State for employment and MP for Suffolk Coastal, said the party's hundredth conference was under way and they had a lot to do. The Conservative Government was going on with the job it started in 1979

and which the nation had called on it to continue.

He paid tribute to the party's hard working supporters in every constituency, the professionals of the party - the agents - and all at central office, and after the applause which greeted his reference to Mr Parkinson, Mr Gummer commented: "This is a great party to belong to and I am very fortunate in the success Cecil left me. This party is very fortunate to have so outstanding a Secretary of State."

He said the Conservative Party must prepare for the future, having laid a great foundation. At the last election they had been seen to be the party which represented all the people. They must turn those voters into members: they must get out and bring them in.

They had to do this now because next year, as well as the local government elections, there would be the elections to the European Parliament. Conservatives were committed to Britain and to a Britain in the European Community. In the European elections, they must see that it was a Conservative Britain in a Conservative Community.

They would face some competition. The Labour Party had decided to join in, not very enthusiastically, not entirely definitely but probably, perhaps and on occasion. There was a vagueness which suited Labour at the moment.

"When you are split down the middle", he said, "unity can only be preserved by total ambiguity. Ambiguity - that is the nature of the so-called dream ticket. Long, long may it be a Labour dream. The reality would be a nightmare for Britain. Happily it is like all dreams, it disappears in the light of day."

Mr Gummer went on: "I was ever thus. Foot and Healey: Kinnock and Hattersley. The only difference between Foot and Kinnock is 30 years. I bet Mr Kinnock wishes he had had a stick when he went walking by the water (laughter) people did not believe the Old Pretenders: must not let them be misled by the young ones."

"This week there were many who would try to push the party off course, people not on its side and who had other fish to fry. I give them warning," he said. "This conference will not be diverted: this Government will not be diverted."



The Prime Minister joining in the applause for Mr Selwyn Gummer's first speech as party chairman (Photographs: Brian Harris)

Big energy-saving campaign announced

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, outlined how he proposed to examine the way nationalized energy industries were run, to see if there was a better system for the future than that of nationalization.

He wanted to see if there was a way in which some of the major industries could be freed from the perpetual interference by the politician, and in which the men with skill could be encouraged to run the industries efficiently.

Speaking in a debate on energy policy, Mr Walker announced that at the end of the month he would launch the biggest campaign yet to stop the enormous waste of energy.

If it were successful it could save £100m a year on the rates, by local government becoming energy efficient. The country could save more than £1,000m on industrial costs and substantially reduce domestic energy bills.

He said the Conservatives could claim to have done more for the coal industry than any post-war government. Since 1979 the

Government had invested more than £2m a day in the industry. Mr Scargill accusing it of being in favour of destroying the industry

But another factor which should not be underestimated was pricing policy. On the Continent huge discounts were given to the larger consumer. They remained the abiding irony of Britain with all its massive energy resources, was still very expensive.

The Government should ensure that in future energy prices were not a handicap.

Mr Edward Ellis, Folkestone and Hythe, moved a motion, later carried, urging the Government to take steps to ensure that British industry was not placed at a disadvantage as to energy costs compared with its foreign competitors.

He said that for a large consumer of electricity must be 20 per cent cheaper, and in Italy 43 per cent. In an industry where electricity prices were 20 per cent of the total cost of production, the British competitor started with a 10 per cent handicap as against his foreign rivals.

nuclear power and hydro electricity. Britain relied heavily on expensive coal-based production. Italy cheated with heavy subsidies.

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"brilliant organization" during the election.

It was now crucial that the party should begin to build for the future. The motion was right to stress the need for simplifying the tax system to encourage tax avoidance and the need to encourage all to save, earn and invest.

Much had already been done by the Conservative Government with the help of Sir Geoffrey Howe, who had reversed the inflationary tide and set them off on the path of tax reform. "Under Nigel Lawson's vigorous leadership we need to see where Geoffrey Howe left off," he said.

"I have to admit freely that our tax burden is still too high (applause). But it will remain high unless we make a conscious decision to contain those demands," Mr Rees said.

The first task must be to lighten still further the tax burden to ensure that it was not less hospitable to capital, enterprise and thrift than neighbours and competitors. The Government attached a very high priority to raising the starting point for income tax to take more people out of tax altogether.

But the cost would be large. £750m for every £100 that the starting point was raised, he said.

A further reduction in income tax rates must yield proceeds to that. Abolition must come only after a reduction in the rates of income tax.

The Government was looking at ways to reduce the cost of administering the tax system and reducing compliance costs for the ordinary taxpayer.

The PAYE system was to be computerized and the Inland Revenue was testing a scheme of self-assessment for corporation tax.

That could lead on to a simple form of self-assessment for schedule D taxpayers, but it would be self-defeating to rush any step until the Inland Revenue and taxpayers were ready.

It was necessary to simplify and reform the many arcane enforcement measures on which the last Labour government had superimposed a mass of legislation.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Today's debates

A motion calling for lower taxation and further control of public spending will be debated this afternoon when Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will be speaking. This morning there will be debates on employment, proportional representation, and defence. This afternoon there will also be a question and answer session on education and a debate on electoral law.

'Paid agitators attacking London police'

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Anti-police agitators are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on a sustained and vociferous campaign against the Metropolitan Police, Mr Alan Eastwood, vice-chairman of the Police Federation, told a Tory fringe meeting in Blackpool yesterday.

Mr Eastwood said: "Since Serpentine the ranks of the well-paid agitators with their snouts in the public trough have not just grown, they have multiplied."

Speaking to a meeting organized by the hard-right Monday Club, Mr Eastwood singled out for particular criticism Mr Paul Boateng, chairman of the Greater London Police committee, who had lavished grants on such organizations as the Gay London Police Monitoring Group, the Black People's Action Committee and the Hackney Police Accountability Collective.

Mr Eastwood added: "A small army of full-time staff swallows up most of the money, the jobs going to people who only have to demonstrate a 'positive commitment', which must mean a lengthy association with the police group, and I suppose it helps to have had a few convictions for obstruction as campaign medals."

These groups, he said, "will actually compete with the official Labour committee to capture the hearts and minds of impressionable youngsters in the inner city."

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Housing policy debate

Government wants to extend people's right to buy

The Government is considering how to overturn a House of Lords decision in the last session of parliament not to extend the right to buy to tenants of charities and charitable associations, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, said when winding up a debate on housing policy.

Apart from defence, Mr Gow said no issue was of more lasting consequence for the people than housing.

The conference carried overwhelmingly a motion welcoming the success of council house sales legislation and noting that home ownership was an aspiration of most families in Britain, to be encouraged by all means available to the government and local councils.

The motion recognized the need for an adequate stock of specialist rented accommodation, especially for the disabled and the elderly, and called on councils to ensure that such houses were available in their areas.

Mr David Snow, Basingstoke, moving the motion, said that in the last parliament the vision of a property-owning democracy became reality for half a million people. The urban landscape had changed dramatically for the better and showed greater individuality than ever.

Mr Brian Sallenger, Hargreave and Wood Green, said that the right to buy should be extended to tenants of public authorities like water authorities where the housing was not needed for their



Mr Ian Gow: "Transferring assets to the people"

own use. The number of empty publicly-owned houses was a national scandal.

Mr Tony Hall, vice-chairman of the Young Conservatives, said that they should not relegate council housing to those who could not afford to buy and divide the nation into two classes.

Mr Gow said that home ownership was the preferred choice of an overwhelming majority of people. The Conservative Party was proud to have extended home ownership.

Since the Conservatives came to power more than 600,000 homes had been sold by councils, new towns and housing associations - and another 140,000 sales were in the pipeline. That achievement owed a great deal to the leadership and inspiration of the Prime Minister.

Mr Gow said that it used to be thought that a successful housing policy was building more council houses for letting in perpetuity. But housing was not an area where the prejudices of politicians, councillors or housing directors should prevail over the wishes and preferences of the people. "We are engaged in an exercise of genuine public ownership, a transfer of assets from the state to the people themselves"

The new Housing Bill before Parliament would help the less affluent tenant by giving the right to buy on a shared ownership basis, part purchase and part rental.

The Bill also gave tenants the right to organize repairs and be reimbursed by the local authority.

Although some Labour-controlled councils had delayed council house sales, some Conservative-controlled councils had been less effective or enthusiastic about implementing the right to buy. Every council was under a

duty to ensure that right could be exercised freely, speedily and efficiently, Mr Gow said.

"Anyone who believes that that right is being denied or delayed should write to me, Ian Gow, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1."

Local authorities had a particular responsibility for the elderly and disabled, he said.

Although it was for them to decide their priorities, he believed that they should concentrate more resources on provision for those groups.

New starts of accommodation for the elderly were up by 25 per cent on last year for disabled starts were 50 per cent up.

The labour-intensive construction industry would play a key role in leading Britain out of recession. Housing starts and completions for the first eight months of the year were substantially up on last year.

A review of legislation covering the private rented sector was underway because laws designed to protect the tenant had dried up the supply of accommodation.

Mr Gow said that, The Prime Minister had set the party the goal of making Britain the best-housed nation in Europe. In the present parliament, they would take giant strides towards that goal. The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

448:001250

Killers' escapes upset moves towards open prison policy

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Government moves to put into open prisons more inmates serving long sentences, including life, received a setback yesterday as three murderers escaped from Leyhill Open Prison, near Bristol.

Although they were recaptured within hours, the escapes came as plans for holding long-term prisoners were being reviewed along with a rash of escapes from prisons which are described as serious by the Prison Department.

Prison Service News, published by the department, said yesterday: "Where appropriate, local authority agreements which governed the type of inmate who could be sent to particular open establishments are being renegotiated."

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, has told local MPs about moves to curb on three open prisons, Ashwell in Leicestershire, Forth in West Sussex, and Knebworth in Lancashire. For prisoners coming to the end of long sentences, including life, a period in open conditions was an essential prelude to their eventual release, he said. The three who absconded from Leyhill were serving life.

The Prison Department's recent annual report showed that 131 lifers were being held in open prisons. Last year there was a sharp rise in the number of prisoners absconding from open jails.

While escapes from all establishments rose from 461 the previous year to 555 in 1982, those from open prisons increased from 380 to 438.

Mr William Brister, deputy director-general of the Prison Service, is quoted in Prison Service News as saying there has been an alarming increase nationally in the number of escapes by prisoners under escort. In the first four months of the year, 30 prisoners escaped in 25 separate incidents. Although 18 were recaptured within 24 hours, this does not detract from the seriousness of these breaches of security, he says.

● The lifers who escaped from Leyhill yesterday were recaptured when a prison officer on his way from work saw three men in prison uniform crossing a field near the A38 near Newport Tower, north of Bristol.

A police hunt was launched and within a short time two of the prisoners were caught. The third gave himself up after a chase from Avon and Somerset Police Force and Gloucestershire Police had been searching for a further hour.

Police named him as Malcolm Green, aged 36, from Cardiff. He surrendered to a police dog handler, Police Constable Michael Whiting as he searched a country lane near the M5 motorway, about four miles from Leyhill.

The others, David Phillips, aged 32, and Anthony Hewitt, aged 29, and Green, are likely to be moved to secure prisons.



UK mends fences in Malaysia

Singapore (Reuters) — Lord Jellicoe, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said here before flying home, last night that Malaysia had dropped its "Buy British Last" policy, but there was still room for improvement in relations between the two countries.

He was speaking to the British Business Association, before leaving for home after leading a trade delegation to Malaysia.

"I can say the 'Buy British Last' policy appears to have become a thing of history. But I can't say Malaysian-British relations are entirely out of the woods."

The 10-member Jellicoe mission was the first big British trade delegation to visit Malaysia for more than a year, after Malaysia imposed a restrictive trade policy against British goods.

Malaysia eased its restrictions after the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, met Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London in March.

● KUALA LUMPUR: British investors and traders have been redoubling efforts to regain lost goodwill (M. G. G. Pillai writes). But they are finding it hard going, as Lord Jellicoe's delegation discovered during its week-long visit to Malaysia.

In a series of meetings with interested Malaysians, Lord Jellicoe spoke like a born-again convert, asking his listeners to give Britain a second chance to help Malaysia. Curiously, the official radio and television network gave him more coverage than a visit of this nature would normally have received while the newspapers barely reported it.

However, talks with the Prime Minister and other ministers went off happily. Lord Jellicoe knows well both Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa Hitam, the deputy Prime Minister.

Wives in mourning: The widows of three South Korean Cabinet ministers killed in Sunday's terrorist explosion in Rangoon waiting at Kimpo airport, Seoul, for the arrival of a special flight carrying the bodies of the 16 South Koreans who died in the blast.

As the toll in Rangoon rose to 20, including a Burmese photographer who died in hospital yesterday, the 16 bodies were brought home in flag-draped caskets. More than a million mourners are expected to attend a state funeral.

Burmese police have arrested a non-Burmese Asian

Liberals in turmoil as White turns on Gray

From Our Correspondent Melbourne

The decision by Mr Robin Gray, the Liberal Premier of Tasmania, to campaign for Mr John Bjelke-Petersen, the National Party Premier of Queensland, has caused a storm in the Liberal Party.

Mr David Rowell, president of the Liberals Tasmanian branch, said he had been placed in an embarrassing position after advising Mr Gray not to visit Queensland. He said that the political dangers of such a visit would have to be faced by Mr Gray, alone.

Mr Rowell said that Tasmanian Liberals would be disappointed by Mr Gray's decision. "I have given my commitment to the Queensland Liberal Party, through their president, Dr Herron, and Mr White, that we will offer them any help."

Mr Gray's decision is particularly unfortunate because the state election, to be held on October 22, was precipitated by a split in the National-Liberal Party coalition government caused by Mr Bjelke-Petersen's refusal to allow Mr Terry White, the new Liberal Party leader, to serve in the Queensland Government.

Yesterday Mr White said that Mr Gray was the "bad apple at the bottom of the political barrel." He said Mr Gray was not welcome in Queensland and that he would refuse to meet him.

Aborigines threaten police with death song

From Tony Duboudin Melbourne

Aborigines in the West Australian town of Roebourne say they will use traditional methods to punish a local policeman who, they say, was responsible for the death of an Aboriginal youth in police custody more than a week ago. They say they will "sing" him to death.

The ceremony, equivalent to an execution is carried out only rarely. Anthropologists have documented many Aboriginal deaths after such ceremonies.

Mr Mick Lee, the stepfather of the boy, said that the local Aborigines would probably go ahead with the singing ceremony if no one was punished by white man's law.

"That is what the people are talking about, they are very angry," he said. "When someone is killed, someone must die. This is our law, Aboriginal law. When someone is sung to death by Aboriginal lawmen, he dies in two days. Black or white, all the same."

Mr Lee is one of the senior Aboriginal lawmen in Roebourne, 900 miles north-east of Perth. He is responsible for initiating young men into Aboriginal spiritual life.

The dead youth, John Pat, aged 17, had begun the long process of education in Aboriginal law last year, Mr Lee said. "I took him into the law myself."

Streamlining the cities: 3 Managing London after the GLC

The Greater London Council has two faces. One, that of Mr Kenneth Livingstone and the politicians, will disappear in April 1985. But what will become of the other, benign face of the GLC: the blue plaques, Waterloo Bridge, Golders Hill Park, the Festival Hall? In the third of a series on the consequences of abolition David Walker, Local Government Correspondent, looks at the special arrangements for many of the GLC's assets.

This year the Greater London Council is spending £56 more than the Government says it should on each of its 6.7 million inhabitants; its budget is 50 per cent in excess of the target level. Those figures give some idea of the dimensions of the exercise in cutting public spending that has just begun. It may be called reorganisation but in effect it is a process (the Government hopes) for taking nearly £300m out of the GLC's hands.

Similarly, huge savings are expected from the Inner London Education Authority, which is to be reconstituted in 1986 as a joint committee of councillors. It will inevitably be Labour-controlled, but the government will be in charge of its budget and will be looking for savings of £143 per head from the inner area's 2.3 million people, which translates into a budget cut of £100m at present prices.

The gamble inherent in the

Government's policy is that closing County Hall and forcing Mr Livingstone to find another living will save upwards of £400m a year. What the White Paper published last week leaves unclear is how much the boroughs will have to spend to continue providing the many GLC services the public is likely to want retained.

Victoria Park in east London will pass in reorganisation to many of the boroughs or to Tower Hamlets or some joint committee. The boroughs will pay for its high maintenance, flower beds and keepers. Both Labour-controlled, are candidates for the other arm of the Government's policy: pinprick rate-capping. With rates capped they are likely to have higher priorities for their spending than water fowl.

Perhaps the most dramatic financial changes are faced by ILEA. At a press conference last week Mrs Frances Morrell, its pugnacious leader, said it had been under attack for five years but an alliance of parents and teachers had fended off opponents. Such confidence is unlikely to hold.

Mrs Morrell says that ILEA's very favourable pupil-teacher ratio, its high costs for non-teaching staff, its subsidies for school meals, are all justified by the social needs of the inhabitants of Hackney, Southwark and other poorer areas.

Critics of the authority acknowledge the poverty and disadvantages of inner London but question whether this justifies, for example, spending £300 per secondary pupil per year more than Newton, which is also poor, or spending £100 per head of population more per year than Manchester.

The civil servants who will take over ILEA's budget from 1985 will have the task of chipping away the residue of many years of County Hall's generosity. Mrs Morrell and her educational allies are unlikely to be dispossessed without at least a noisy struggle.

Tomorrow: The Birmingham solution.

BBC buys four studios at Elstree for £7m

By Kenneth Gesling

The BBC has bought four television studios at Elstree for between £7m and £7.5m. The deal, described as "a good long-term investment", also gives the BBC 65,000sq ft of office space and will enable it to move staff from a number of London locations.

At present prices each of the four studios would cost about £4m; one of the first projects to take place at Elstree will be a new twice-weekly drama series for BBC1.

The Elstree site is larger than that at the Television Centre at Sheppards Bush in London, and will enable the corporation to move from high-priced short-lease premises in central London. There are eight studios at the Television Centre and the new accommodation will provide much needed rehearsal and training facilities.

The deal is with Bentay Investments Ltd, the property company belonging to Associated Communications Corporation.

Calvi inquiries to continue, City police say

By John Withersow

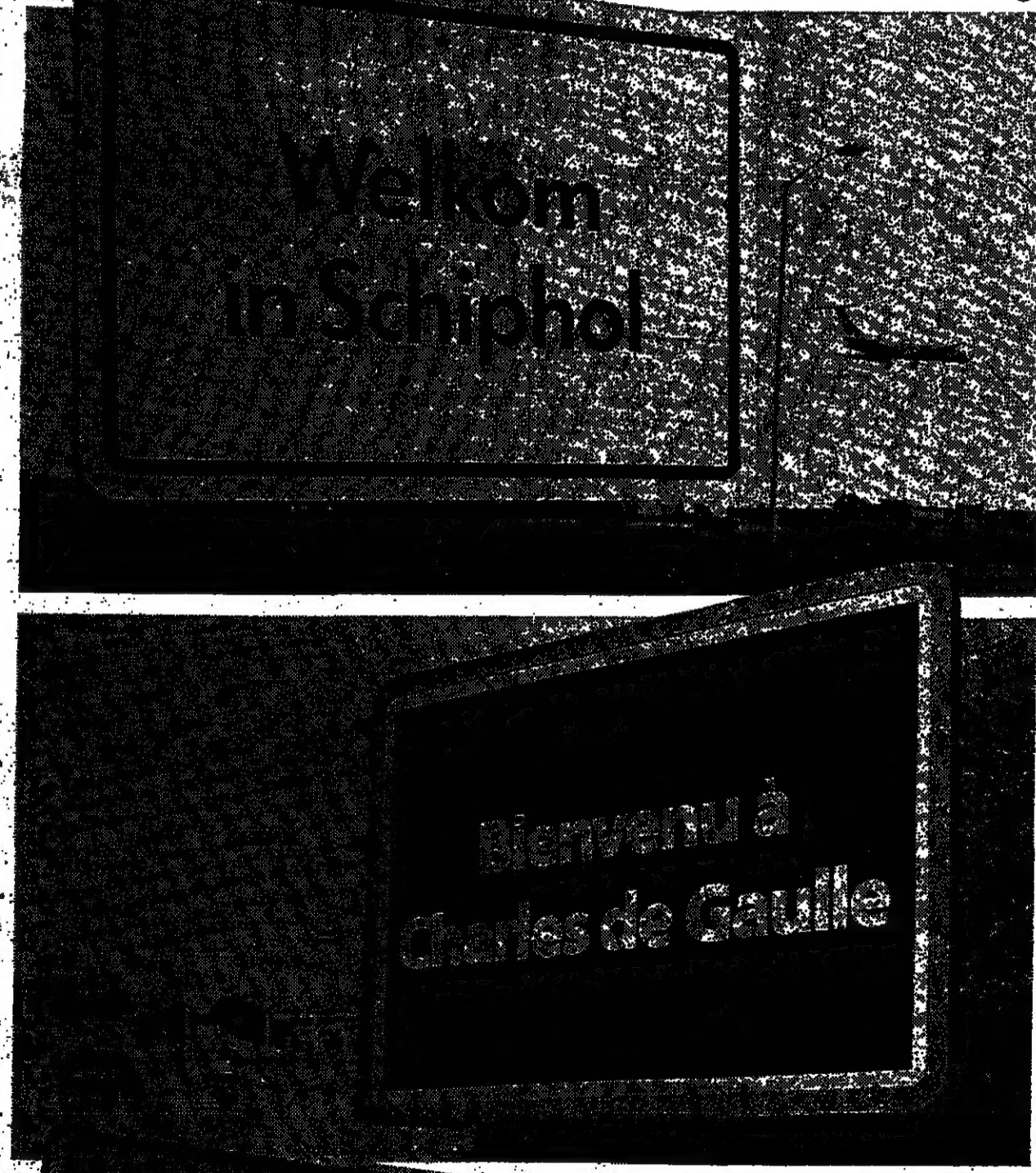
Inquiries into the death of Signor Roberto Calvi, the Italian banker, will continue, a senior police officer has said after returning from Italy where he questioned a close business associate of the man known as "God's banker".

Chief Supt Barry Tarbun, of the City police, said that he and two colleagues had spent a total of 24 hours questioning Signor Flavio Carboni about the death of Signor Calvi, who was found hanging from scaffolding under Blackfriars Bridge last year.

Signor Carboni, aged 51, a flamboyant Sardinian business associate of Signor Calvi who was with him in London when he died, was "very frank and never declined to answer anything", Mr Tarbun said.

Mr Tarbun said they had no new lead but the interviews had cleared up certain doubts. He added that a conclusion that Signor Calvi committed suicide was still "very much a possibility".

The alternatives to Stansted could prove very costly.



The why, when and whereabouts of London's third airport have been circling around for more than 20 years.

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With over 40 million passengers last year, a figure that's expected to double over the next decade, there's now an urgent need for airport development.

At the recent public inquiry, the forecasts supported an expansion of capacity in the South East. Even assuming the maximum growth for regional airports.

The air traveller will expect expansion at London too. Apart from the obvious attractions of our capital city, it offers more flights to more international destinations than anywhere else.

And if we can't cope with future demand, airline passengers will opt for our competitors across the Channel.

To hold our position on top of the world, we must develop our airport system around London.

And the logical location for this development is Stansted. An airport already operating successfully. An airport with rail services nearby and with London just a short trip down the M11.

But, while waiting for the green light at Stansted, we've still been moving forward.

At Heathrow we are spending £200 million on the construction of Terminal 4. It is due to open, on schedule, in 1985.

At Gatwick we've just completed a £24 million satellite terminal. And work has begun on a second main terminal costing a further £200 million.

When the above projects are complete, all feasible developments will be at an end.

There is talk of building a fifth terminal on the sewage works west of Heathrow.

But this scheme could never be ready in time to meet the expected number of passengers.

It would cost £100 million more than developing Stansted.

And, in any case, it would exceed the government limit on air traffic movements at Heathrow which comes into force in 1985.

At the British Airports Authority we think the question has been up in the air long enough.

To ensure that foreign currency continues to land in London, we must come down in favour of Stansted.



The British Airports Authority, a profitable public enterprise, owns and manages Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick and Aberdeen airports.

Andropov gives up hope of winning deal on missiles in Geneva

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov has given up hope of an agreement at the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles and is counting on a "hot autumn" of anti-Nato protests in Europe to prevent Nato deployments, diplomats here believe.

The main target of an eleven-hour Soviet propaganda campaign is West Germany, where a senior Soviet delegation led by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the head of the Soviet-Communist Party's international information department, has been putting the Soviet case this week, warning Bonn not to accept new Nato missiles on its soil.

The delegation crossed the path of a West German Bundestag team on its way to Moscow for talks.

In its latest broadcast *Pravda* yesterday said the stationing of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in West Germany in December would breach Soviet-German treaties signed in the 1970s which included undertakings by Bonn not to use force or prepare to launch a war from West German soil.

Until the sidinder crisis a month and a half ago, Mr Andropov often referred nostalgically to the détente of the 1970s, and appeared to be laying the groundwork for a last minute compromise at Geneva. In the aftermath of the tragedy

the Soviet leader kept a low profile for a month before deciding to reinforce the hard-line rhetoric of Russia's military spokesmen rather than try to salvage the moves towards an arms agreement.

He described President Reagan's new proposals at Geneva as "delish, short-sighted and suicidal" and said any illusions that Reagan Administration policies might "evolve for the better" had been finally dispelled.

Mr Andropov is expected to maintain his bitterly anti-American tone in a speech in Sofia after this week's meeting of Warsaw pact foreign ministers in the Bulgarian capital. The missiles will also dominate talks in Vienna this weekend between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart.

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democrats' veteran disarmament expert and head of the Bundestag delegation, spent the day yesterday in search of common ground on the missile question, but it seemed elusive. Diplomats here said it was wrong to suppose that Moscow had not yet said its "final word".

"There are times when you have to give what the Russians say at face value," one West European diplomat commented, "and this is one of them. What might have been common ground is rapidly filling up with rockets."

Diplomats believe that if Russia fails to prevent the Nato deployments it will abandon the Geneva medium-range talks as pointless while continuing the parallel talks on strategic arms (Sart). Soviet officials have hinted that cruise and Pershing 2s - once deployed and a fait accompli - could be incorporated into Sart and classified as "strategic".

● **BONN:** The talks this weekend between Herr Genscher and Mr Gromyko are seen here as the last chance for the Geneva negotiations (Michael Stanyon writes).

Herr Genscher will draw on his long-standing professional relationship with Mr Gromyko to try to convince him that it is not too late for agreement if the Russians are ready to reply constructively to the latest American proposals.

He has already denied any intention of acting as a mediator between Moscow and Washington. But he will emphasize, in tones less ideological than those heard in Washington, the advantages of the latest Western offer, while insisting that the Russians will not shake Western resolution by threats or by encouragement of the peace movement.

the staff Philippines politics are made of. Personalities with the panache of a Marcos are what is needed. The best the opposition can hope for is to have a set of figures standing by, should Mr Marcos suddenly go, to prevent what many fear may be bloody contest for power.

The most obvious source of future political power centres around the President's wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos. She already holds several important positions, including Minister of Human Settlements, which discharges a vast amount of government funding. She is also Governor of Metro Manila, the capital area.

She recently announced that she would retire from politics and play no part in next year's election should the ruling New Society Movement (NSM) allow her to step down. There is not likely to be a lack of KBL sponsors for a motion that she should stay, but any subsequent grab for power by Mrs Marcos would not be so well received by the public at large.

She would most likely have the backing of General Fabian Ver the armed forces Chief of Staff and the men who control the broad, high ground of the Philippines' natural resources industries.

General Ver represents far more than merely the Army and the Air Force, having control also of intelligence and the various special commands, including the Aviation Security Command (Avsec) which was in charge of security at

Philippines in turmoil: Part 2

Divided opposition lacks panache

David Watts, South-East Asia Correspondent, has visited Manila to report on the turmoil since the murder in August of a leading opponent of President Marcos. In this second article he examines the prospects for political succession. His first article appeared on yesterday's feature page.



Mrs Marcos: obvious source of future power.



Mr Varata: America's choice for succession.

Manila airport the day that Aquino was murdered.

General Ver's son is said to be in command of the armoured units that have been brought into the capital in case of trouble.

The general has recently increased his influence as both of his chief rivals, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, and Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, who commands the Philippine constabulary, have had their powers limited by President Marcos.

But General Ver is not a popular figure in the Army and can only hope to maintain his present position so long as the Marcos family rules. Whether he could rally the armed forces behind Mrs Marcos is in doubt especially in the light of recent unrest at the Philippines Military Academy.

Mrs Marcos' erratic and free-spending ways would not make her a President to delight Washington. The man most likely to find favour there would be Mr Cesar Virata, the present Prime Minister, an American-trained technocrat, who has done his best to see that policies recommended by the International Monetary Fund are carried out. Indeed, it is said that the presence of Mr Virata in the Government is the primary reason that the Philippines continues to get IMF credits.

But since the Aquino murder no one can safely predict the future.

Concluded

China joins nuclear watchdog agency

Vienna (Reuters) - China was yesterday admitted to the International Atomic Agency, the watchdog body which operates safeguards and inspections on civil nuclear reactors.

Approval of China's application, was by a unanimous show of hands at the agency's general conference here, China becomes its one hundred and twelfth member.

China will have to deposit with the US Government an instrument of acceptance of the statutes of IAEA, the atomic agency, a UN-affiliated body, before it can become a fully active member.

The country will not be bound by its membership to conform to the agency's international safeguards and inspection system, but it will be under pressure from other members to do so voluntarily, diplomats said.

Other states with nuclear weapons - the US, Britain and France - have voluntary safeguard agreements with the International Atomic Agency.

Mr Hans Blix, the agency's director-general, said that China could both benefit from and contribute to global cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr Donald Hodel, the US Energy secretary said "This decision by the world's most populous country, and a nation with a growing nuclear programme, is of great significance."



Tail down: A Boeing 747 owned by Flying Tigers air freight company sitting on the tarmac at Frankfurt yesterday after part of its cargo broke loose and smashed through the fuselage.

Oppenheimer will vote against electoral reform

From Michael Horvath, Johannesburg

Mr Harry Oppenheimer, the doyen of South African industrialists and former chairman of the Anglo-American Corporation, the world's biggest mining group, says he will vote "No" on November 2 in the all-white referendum on the Constitution Bill, passed by Parliament last August, but not yet promulgated.

If the Bill is approved, it will probably be put into effect early next year. It would extend the franchise, on separate voters' rolls, to the Indian and mixed-blood Coloured minorities, whose representatives would sit in different chambers alongside the white chamber. The legislative function of the new chambers, however, would be little more than advisory.

Mr Oppenheimer, who retired as chairman of Anglo at the end of last year but still heads De Beers, the corporation's diamond mining arm, said his decision was made "with regret, certainly, but with no doubt in my mind."

Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, had shown courage in pursuing reform, Mr Oppenheimer said, but had "found it necessary to structure this reform in a way which entrenched the power of the white majority party (the ruling National Party)."

The Government had also failed to consider the political rights of the millions of urban and rural blacks who wanted to remain South African citizens and rejected independence on Pretoria's terms.

What the Government had in mind for blacks, Mr Oppenheimer said, it had been made plain that it did not include a share in parliamentary power.

Opinion among white English-speaking businessmen is divided over the referendum. Most are expected to vote "Yes", believing the Constitution Bill represents a small, if inadequate, step, in the right direction.

The most interesting development has been the upsurge of black opposition. It had been thought that they were indifferent to what they saw as an all-white exercise.

But in the past few weeks, "blacks of all political shades, led by Kwa Zulu's Chief Buthelezi, have warned of a violent backlash if blacks are permanently excluded from South Africa's constitutional future."

Farmer dies using gun to club black

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A farmer was killed by a shot from his own gun as he beat a black labourer with the butt, it was reported yesterday.

Mr Petrus Van Der Merwe, who was 46, swung the gun at Mr David Radebe, who had worked for him for 15 years, as they argued about a pick-up truck stuck in mud near his farm at Credfort, Orange Free State.

His son, Johannes said that two shots went off as his father swung the gun first time but they went wide.

The third time he struck Mr Radebe the butt broke and another shot went off which hit Mr Van Der Merwe in the stomach, killing him instantly.

Police kill two

Chihuahua, Mexico (AP) - Police charged and fired into a crowd of leftist protesters at a small town in northern Mexico, killing a 76-year-old man and a small child and wounding at least 20 other people.

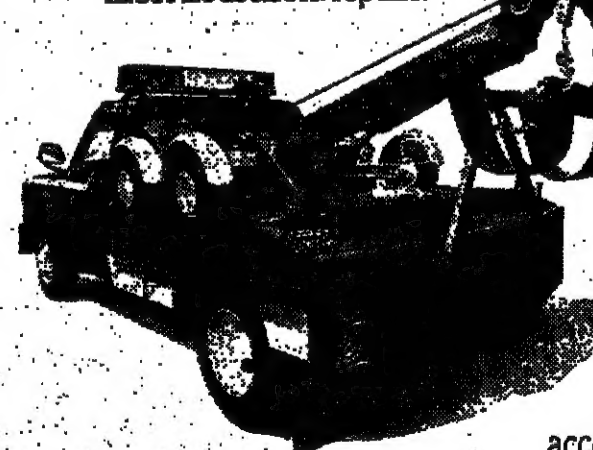
Far from home

Jiddah (AP) - A thirsty Dutch carrier pigeon found in the desert near here has been returned to the Netherlands.

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SPECTRUM



Communist aggression and lies constitute the great temptation of our time, according to Jeane Kirkpatrick. In a last extract from her conversation with George Urban, she tells why this is so

The ignorance of Western intellectuals

Kirkpatrick: I don't find it difficult to explain the West European position on El Salvador - although I think it very short-sighted. It represents an extraordinary blindness and/or indifference to the security interests of the US. For what is the message our European Allies are sending us when criticizing our positions in Central America and voting against us at the UN? Is it this? That the US is expected to be concerned about the security of Western Europe, but Western Europe need not have a reciprocal concern about the security of the US?

Now, I grant you that the US is a member of a Nato alliance which is explicitly concerned with the security of Western Europe, while the West European countries are not members of any alliance that would guarantee the security of the USA in its own hemisphere. But the fact is that the Caribbean and Central America constitute the fourth border of the USA. The Soviets perceived very accurately as early as 1967 that this area was a kind of "soft underbelly" of the US, and that our capacity to act forcefully elsewhere in the world depended on our freedom from a serious threat to our security on our borders. It follows that US security in Central America ought to be a prime concern of Europe.

The full text of the conversation between J. Kirkpatrick and George Urban will appear in the 30th anniversary issue of *Encounter* on October 20. George Urban is a writer and historian specializing in soviet affairs. Jeane Kirkpatrick is the US Ambassador to the UN.

What disturbed me a great deal at the UN was the discovery of the multiple issues on which the US, the UK, and Western Europe have different perspectives.

The most disturbing for me have been the human rights issues. All Western nations have repeatedly acquiesced in ignoring massive human rights violations by the Soviets and their satellites (Poland, Cuba, Vietnam, Ethiopia), and focus their protests on the real but both qualitatively and quantitatively lesser violations committed by traditional non-communist anti-communist autocracies in Latin America, and also in Israel.

Urban: But has the US pursued a different and more principled course?

Kirkpatrick: Not really. Until the arrival of the present Administration, the US passively acquiesced in all this. Since last year, however, we have declared war on using such double standards, especially in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Last year, in Geneva, we finally managed (in cooperation with the West European countries) to pass a weak resolution on Poland, calling on the Secretary-General at least to investigate human rights abuses there. Unbelievably, this was the first human-rights resolution affecting a communist country which was ever passed by the Human Rights Commission. And, as I say, though important, it was much, much weaker than the human rights resolutions regularly endorsed by a Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Guatemala, El Salvador, Uruguay, or Chile.

Right now, it is almost impossible to interest the West European friends in human rights violations in Nicaragua, even though we have incontrovertible documentary evidence to show that the Sandinista régime is subjecting many thousands of Miskito Indians to the most brutal maltreatment.

All this leads me to the disquieting conclusion I have already mentioned: that some Western nations have a highly politicized concept of the moral issues involved, that they are apparently indifferent to the security interests of the US in Central and South America; and that they are too often content to acquiesce in human rights policies whose principal functions is to serve the political interests of the Soviet bloc. Sweden provides the extreme example of all these tendencies. Their human rights policies in the UN bodies are highly ideological and by no means "neutral" in their political content.

Urban: May I return, to end this long colloquy, to what we have said about the extraordinary predilection of Western intellectuals - and a sector of Western youth for giving the benefit of the doubt (and more than that) to communist régimes. Haven't we read too many clever things into their motivation? The majority of them - or so it seems to me - are just angry young men and women raging at the limitations of the human condition. May of them do not even consciously support socialism. They simply echo man's anguished cry since the beginning of time: "There has to be a better world, or life, or society than this one."

Don't you think that this vague longing - this non-specific, negative Utopianism, this really adolescent urge to tear down the temple - is perhaps all we have to look for when trying to explain "the reason of the right?"

Kirkpatrick: That is certainly the main source of the intellectual confusion. Alienation from existing authority - not economic role - is the principle determinant of their susceptibility to totalitarianism. Totalitarian ideologies promise an end of "alienation." False consciousness, isolation, anomie, separation, loneliness, purposelessness - all are defined as subjective consequences of objective social ills, therefore as capable of being



'Most disturbing for me have been the human rights issues'

eradicated through social engineering.

The intellectuals we have in mind act in a spirit that assumes that human nature in the future may be qualitatively different from what it was in the past, a spirit that views each situation as *tabula rasa* on which a plan can be imposed, and therefore sees experience in other times and places as having no real relevance. Intuition becomes more important than experience, intelligence than custom. Yet the most extraordinary fact about our times is, to say it again, the tenacity with which persons who pride themselves on being rational and scientific hold to a mystical faith in political propositions which are demonstrably false and unreasonable.

Despite the fact that Communist parties have no reliable relation to the masses - do not come to power through mass action, do not submit industry to the control of the people or organize production for the benefit of the workers, and do not in general rule at the pleasure of the masses - a vast body of myth, misunderstanding and confusion supports the notion that there is some sort of mystical affinity of communism and "the people."

The notion persists that communists are somehow morally superior to other elites which was anomalous means to gain power and impose repressive minority dictatorships. The sources are several.

One is the semantic confusion fostered by the communists themselves through their through their systematic use of language. By calling "autonomous" that which is powerless, "federated" that which is unitary, "democratic" that which is autocratic, "united" that which is imposed by terror, "peaceful" that which incites war in brief, by systematically corrupting language to obscure reality - the communists have made inroads into our sense of political reality. Language is, after all, the only medium in which we can think. It is exceedingly difficult to eliminate all the traditional connotations of words - to associate phrases like "For a Lasting Peace and a People's Democracy" with neither peace nor popular movements nor democracy.

A related form of semantic subversion, practised by communist parties everywhere, is the effort to capture prestigious symbols, slogans, and traditions. Communist parties in the underdeveloped world attempt to identify themselves with the slogans of nationalism and anti-colonialism. Communists in France attempt to identify themselves with the symbols of the *Résistance*, the French Revolution, and the tradition of the left. French communists have attempted to capture Victor Hugo, as American communists staked a claim to Tom Paine and Abraham Lincoln.

Communism does not grow by winning support for its own values. Neither members nor followers are regularly recruited through the appeal of communist values. Communism grows by identifying itself with the prestige symbols of competing movements and so blurring issues, stakes and alignments.

If communist parties spoke of collectivization to peasants, of internationalism to the new nations, of inexorable conflict to intellectuals, of state capitalism to the working classes, and of dictatorship to the middle classes - in short, if communist parties attempted to recruit support through the appeal of their own real values, the lines of conflict would be clearly drawn. Communism, whose values have a sharply limited appeal, would be readily defeated.

The political temptation of "the

new class" of intellectuals we have been puzzling over in this conversation lies in the belief that its members' intelligence and exemplary motives equip them to reorder the institutions, the lives, and even the characters of almost everyone by violence if necessary - this is the totalitarian temptation.

The destruction of Korean airliner 007 by Soviet rockets provides further evidence that violence and lies are regular instruments of Soviet policy and obliterate the conventional boundaries between peace and war. Soviet officials regularly behave as though with were only what they said it was - and as if violence were an instrument of first resort in foreign affairs. These Soviet actions and claims illuminate the Soviet conception of appropriate relations among nations in peace time.

We, on the other hand, believe that truth is as vital to cooperation and peace among nations as among people. It is depressing to consider a world in which a major nation equipped with the most powerful modern weapons believes it has a sovereign right to fire on a commercial airliner lost over its territory.

We are dealing here, not with the decisions of individuals, but with the decisions and priorities characteristic of the Soviet system. Not only did Soviet officials order the destruction of a civilian airliner and lie about it, they have also refused offers of international participation in search-and-rescue efforts in spite of international agreed-upon standards and practices.

We are reminded once again that the Soviet Union is a state based on the twin principles of callousness and mendacity, dedicated to the role of force, and governed by the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat which in 1920 Lenin defined in these words: "The scientific concept of dictatorship means nothing more than unrestricted power, absolutely unimpeded by law or regulations and resting directly on force."

It is this principle of force - this mentality of force - that lies at the root of the Korean Airline tragedy. This is the reality we all must ponder as we consider the threats to peace and human rights that face us today.

© 1983, Jeane Kirkpatrick and George Urban.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Eye of the storm

According to an opinion poll taken in Soviet Russia last week, more than 99 per cent of the population said yes. And that was before they'd even been asked a question.

This East European joke, which came out of the Moscow computer over the weekend during one of its routine propaganda sessions, does not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the *Moreover* magazine. With the advent of the first autumn poll in Britain (Kington closes gap on Thatcher), our hearts sink collectively. It does not take an extensive statistical survey to prove that a new, young leader of the Labour Party will gain in popularity during his honeymoon period, any more than we need an opinion poll to prove that the weather is getting cooler.

There are several things about the Soviet Union which seem attractive from a distance, mostly the absence of things we find irksome here. They don't have opinion polls, or advertising, or ten trailers before the feature film, or peace demonstrations clogging up the traffic. It's a shame in a way that we only praise the Soviets for things they haven't got, never for anything they've got, but it's nice to be able to praise them for something. And something they haven't got in profusion, I have realized over the past week, is storms.

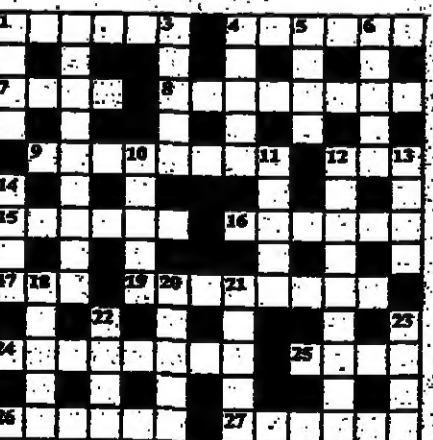
The storm we have had in the past week is the Cecil Parkinson storm. You may have read about it. When Cecil Parkinson announced that he intended to go on living with his wife, there was an immediate storm. We knew there was a storm because the newspapers said so, a storm which grew, which raged about his head, which blew through Westminster and which threatened to bring down, if not the Tory Party, at least Cecil Parkinson.

The oddest thing about this storm, as with so many newspaper storms, was that it seemed to have no visible effect outside newspapers. No walls were knocked down in Yorkshire, no trees fell across roads in the Midlands. I have travelled extensively on public transport the last week, and cavedropped on conversations in all our major pubs, and not once have I heard a reference to the Parkinson storm. People are simply not talking about it. I am reluctantly coming to the conclusion, however, that it sounds that this storm has been a stark storm which happened only in Fleet Street and did not affect even nearby streets.

One explanation for this may be that the public were puzzled by not finding the Parkinson drama enacted on television. It is an exact replay, with the sexes reversed, of the earlier *Coronation Street* drama, in which Ken Barlow's wife decided to leave him and then change her mind at the last moment. The nationwide interest was enormous, but this was because we could watch it every night on TV, and share in Deirdre's struggle with herself. But when the public switched on to look for Mr Parkinson holding his wife's hand and saying: "I'll make a po of it if you will" (music, credits), they looked in vain. They could believe in Ken Barlow, because they could see him with their own eyes; Mr Cecil Parkinson, I'm afraid, they tend to think of as a fictional character.

The great question remains: why do the newspapers go on believing in the existence of, and the great storm around, Mr Cecil Parkinson? And here I have a confession to make. I did not consult last Sunday's *heavies* for the answer. I am sure the answer was there. It always is there. The trouble is, it is always accompanied by an immensely complex and illegible diagram which invariably defeats me and makes me feel inferior. Sometimes it is labelled "Why Japanese air control missed Korean airliner", at other times it is labelled "How they defeated the Maze security system" or "Why oil slicks will go on happening", but it is always the same diagram with Sunday it was, presumably, labelled "How the Parkinson Storm grew", but readers will have to forgive me if I had not the heart to study it.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 173)



- ACROSS
- Blackcurrant
 - Undergo (6)
 - Rush (4)
 - Hard-shelled fruit (8)
 - Cheaper than standard (3,5)
 - GFs (3)
 - Hired killer (6)
 - Keeps away from (6)
 - Fine larva (3)
 - Scalp scales (8)
 - Tearful tale (3,5)
 - Delicious (4)
 - Muslim ruler (6)
 - Neck press (6)
- DOWN
- Set of principles (4)
 - Bigfoot (9)
 - Cub unit leader (5)
 - Male succession law (5)
 - Verifiable truth (4)
 - Mistake (5)
 - Criscross weave (5)
 - Young eel (5)
 - Intravenous solutions (4,5)
 - Impudent talk (4)
 - Flightless bird (4)
 - Splash with water (5)
 - Supercilious (5)
 - Senior society member (5)
 - Soviet Russia (1,1,1,1)
 - Jewish homeland (4)

SOLUTION TO No 172
ACROSS: 1 *Issue* 9 *HFA* 9 *Usurp* 9 *Redneck* 11 *Eyeball* 13 *Pur* 15 *Electrode* 18 *Onus* 19 *Tenacity* 22 *Debrex* 23 *Mason* 24 *Seam* 25 *Embody*
DOWN: 2 *Cause* 3 *Rip* 4 *Street* 5 *FIDE* 6 *Feature* 7 *Quon* 10 *Kurd* 12 *Ever* 14 *Cost* 15 *Equable* 16 *Wood* 17 *Weeny* 20 *Cash* 21 *Sejm* 23 *Mob*

Caroline Moorehead looks at science fiction, the folklore of the twentieth century

The message from outer space

The timing of the recent speculation about a UFO's visit to a Suffolk pine forest could hardly have been better. This week the Book Marketing Council begins its promotion of 20 science-fiction writers. The alien visitor serves to illustrate how, at least on one level, our attitudes towards space have scarcely changed in nearly a century. For the Tanham Wood spacecraft - a fast-moving object with powerful lights, disgorging a red ball full of beings in silver spacesuits - is little different from H. G. Wells's Martians, who arrived in the guise of a falling star on Woking Common in the mid 1890s.

Science fiction, so the experts say, is the most misunderstood genre in modern writing. No one can agree either when it began (Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*? The publication of the first science-fiction magazines in America in the mid 1920s?) or quite how to define it. "Any fiction inspired by science and scientific change," says J. G. Ballard. "Any book," says Christopher Priest, "rather more mockingly, 'that has sci-fi on its cover'."

In its list of 20 authors the Book Marketing Council includes H. G. Wells, Aldous Huxley and George Orwell alongside Ballard, Brian Aldiss and Michael Moorcock. The choice has been widely criticized, as Christopher Priest explains: "If you wish to, you can drag in any number of writers and call them science-fiction authors. Huxley and Orwell would turn in their graves."

What, then, defines science fiction? For publishers and writers alike the term appears to cover all writing that is speculative about the future, and some that is speculative about non-existent past. The traditional BEM (bug-eyed monster), clanking robots and the random rearrangement of time have not vanished as popular themes. Instead they have been joined by every permutation of modern science, in-



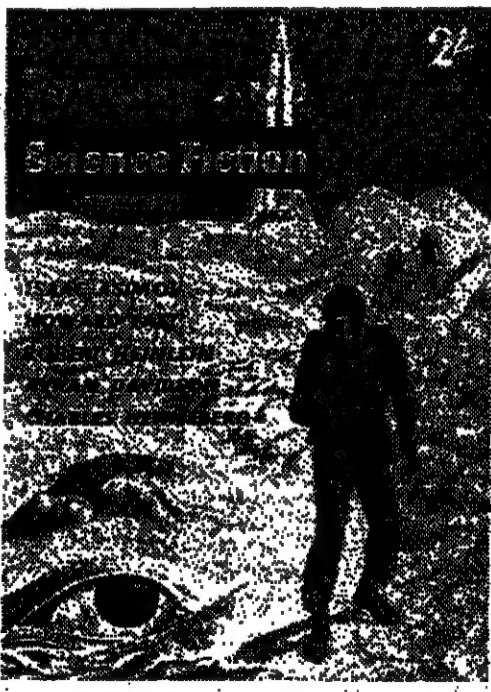
Clarke



Asimov



Wyndham



Ballard



Aldiss



Moorcock

cluding psychology, sociology, linguistics and medicine, although, as Brian Aldiss once put it, they almost always end with nemesis clobbering hubris.

At one extreme lies the esoteric work of Ian Watson, the Oxford academic who writes about structuralism; at the other end of the spectrum is the popular and garish comics with their ingredients of horror, sadomasochism and the occult. In between, there is time travel, genetic mutation, Arthurian legend (very successful), "paranoid sci-fi", and enjoying a considerable current popularity the "fuzzies", typically "golden-furred and emerald-eyed, the largest of them two feet tall".

There is also, of course, Tolkien-inspired fantasy, often selling better than "pure" science fiction, though again definitions blur. "If it has a rocket on the cover, it's sci-fi," says Dick Judge, manager of *Forbidden*

Planet. London's science-fiction bookshop off the Charing Cross Road. "If it has a naked barbarian, it's fantasy."

Whatever the vocabulary the "genre" as all fans call it, appears to be booming once again. It is dominating the *New York Times* best seller lists (in the shapes of Robert Heinlein's *Friday*, Arthur C. Clarke's *2001*, James A. Michener's *Space* and Isaac Asimov's *Foundations*) and accounting for up to 20 per cent of some British paperback publisher's entire turnover. John Wyndham for example, has sold almost six million books in paperback alone. For aficionados it is a cult with its accepted classics - Clarke's *2001*, Frank Herbert's *Dune*.

Leaving aside the question of science fiction's literary genesis, the genre achieved its commercial launch in the 1920s when the "pulp", with their threatened maidens in wispy

gauze, soon won enormous and steady audiences.

By the late 1950s some half-dozen glossy magazines - such as *Amazing*, *New Worlds* or *Galaxy* - were selling 140,000 copies a month in Britain alone, and Charles Chilton's BBC radio serial, *Journey into Space* was thought to have an audience of well over two million.

The 1950s witnessed the birth of the boom in science-fiction book publishing, with 30 London publishers turning out roughly 160,000 science fiction books each year.

The boom was followed, however, by a slump.

The 1970s were not particularly good years for science-fiction writing. American and English concerns seemed to diverge, with British writers like Ballard losing esteem in America, and Ballard himself dismissing Ameri-

can preoccupations with trying to recapture an outmoded American dream. The vast success of the film *Star Wars* did a great deal to boost the video-game industry and its own book spin-off (the paperback sold more than a million copies in England alone), but little for science fiction as a whole.

The question remains, however, whether the science fiction being written today is concerned with developing new perceptions, or whether it is merely reworking familiar themes. Did the 1950s and 1960s represent a glorious era whose innovations cannot be repeated?

To counter this view is a feeling, stoutly defended by most fans, that science fiction should be considered the authentic and enduring folk literature of the twentieth century. "We are now living in a world invented by science fiction,"

From the Centre of the Earth (Hutchinson, 1983) that Chinese join the Party for "recognition, status, power... cars, travel, and better housing."

In health alone, perhaps, the Chinese image remains almost flawless. Lowinger, a San Francisco psychiatrist who visited China twice for a few weeks, once in 1975, and again four years later, and social psychologist Martha Livingston, are both "ruined by China" (as they say), and write about its mental health in *The Minds of The Chinese People* (Prentice Hall, 1983).

Sheila Hillier, a sociologist at the London Hospital and at Barts, and J. A. Jewell, a London GP - both China specialists - would agree. They have investigated the Chinese health system on visits spanning the years of enthusiasm and disillusion, and they take a long view in their forthcoming *Health care and traditional medicine in China 1900-1982* (Routledge, September 1983). The People's Republic, they conclude, has provided and continues to provide comprehensive and thrifty health care for the masses.

Jonathan Mirsky

Bitter taste of reality

"China stinks." This was an American visitor's judgement last year, in *Harper's* magazine, on the world's oldest civilization.

Eight years before, film star Shirley Maclaine had reacted differently about the People's Republic. "Serene, I said to myself, that's the word. Serene." "I saw China" books before Mao's death in 1976 usually breathed euphoria. Nowadays they spit bile.

What has precipitated this reverse? Probably, and ironically, China's relatively greater openness since Mao's death. Earlier visitors, like Maclaine, David Rockefeller, and Felix Greene were shielded from the horrors of the Cultural Revolution by the lies of their guides. Now travellers are permitted somewhat more mobility and occasional informal contact. And the Chinese press has become more truthful.

Perhaps the greatest turnaround has been in the evaluation of the late Chairman Mao, a shift legitimized by the Communist Party's own 1981 Resolution on his "tragic errors" of the Cultural Revolution

Abortion threat

Until recently information about China's peasantry - 80 per cent of the population - was scarce. Foreign academics were allowed brief "study trips" into the countryside, and journalists were lucky to get a day at a time on selected communes. Now Steven Mosher has written *Broken Earth: The rural Chinese* (available December Collier Macmillan), an account of his year (1979-80) in a southern village. Since leaving China three years ago, Mosher has been dismissed from Stanford's doctoral programme in anthropology for unspecified unprofessional conduct. Mosher contends that Stanford backed under threats from Peking to stop all American academic exchanges unless he was severely disciplined for revealing details of a compulsory abortion drive which he witnessed.

The abortion reports in his book are indeed vivid, but what is more striking is Mosher's picture of a

tradition-bound peasantry and its self-serving officials. He saw his neighbours worshipping their ancestors and the gods, and burying the dead and getting married on auspicious days. As for their officials, "the Chinese I spoke with insisted that most cadres look out for their own interests first, last, and always."

Hidden hierarchy

China's seemingly universal equality overwhelmed observers in the wide-eyed period. Harvard economist J. K. Galbraith wrote in *China passage* (1983): "Somewhere in the recesses of Chinese policy there may be a privileged party and official hierarchy. Certainly it is the least ostentatious ruling class in history... clearly, there is very little difference between rich and poor." But the *New York Times* Fox Butterfield identified 24 bureaucratic grades each with its perks, a system never discussed in China, he said, "to help preserve the illusion of egalitarianism." Another veteran of Harvard studies, Richard Bernstein, who represented *Time* magazine in Peking in 1980 and 1981, asserts in

IS AGE A CRIME THAT MARTHA SHOULD BE IMPRISONED FOR?

Many old people like Martha are confined within their own four walls as effectively as if they were in a cell. Victims of infirmity and loneliness, without friends or family, many rely on day centres to maintain the all-important human contact.

For some old people all over Britain, Day Centres represent a chance to escape the isolation of their homes and make new friends. But owing to a shortage of funds, some Centres cannot open every day of the week, and lack important facilities and equipment.

Your help is urgently required to allow Centres to expand their capabilities. Any donation you can make will help another lonely old person rediscover the pleasures of human contact.

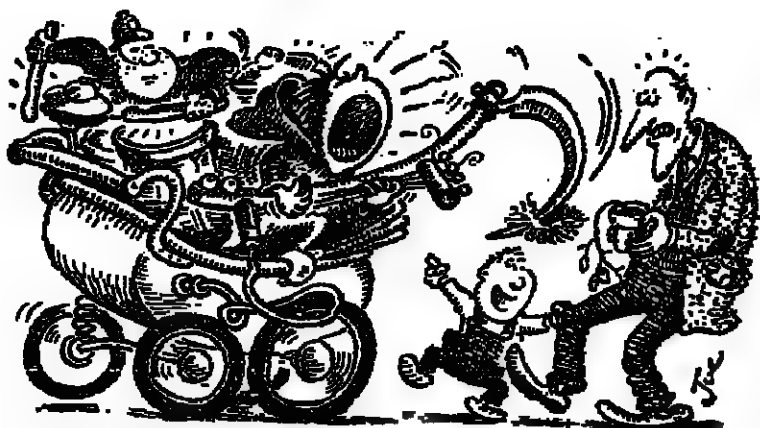
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY



I had always been under the impression that you could log the increasing of your youth by the increasing of your complexion. This may be true, but a far more accurate guideline is the galloping juniority of rock groups. I write with confidence, since the band booked to play at the summer street party has an average age of 12. They are called Kandi and the Cassettes, and not even my colleague Richard Williams has heard of them. Yet.

I sense disaster. Not even before chemistry O-level did I have such intimations of failure. The schism that has dogged every meeting of the organizing committee will be reflected faithfully by a fiasco on Saturday. Strange how catastrophe has a kind of scent. It infuses the air with tension, and seems to spook the children as though they were thoroughbred stallions before a prairie storm. If I weren't such a coward, I would boycott the occasion. After all, there is ample precedent in the Street Radical's snubbing of both the Jubilee and Royal Wedding festivities. On the second occasion his children actually sported tiny sandwich boards with the slogan, "Monarchy is a celebration of mediocrity". That may be true for all I know, but how terrible to foist such knowing phraseology on political innocents. Perhaps I should come up with an apt riposte. What about: "Street parties are a communal affirmation of autocracy"? No.

Reggae music is drifting across the street in broken measures. A woman's voice is riding high over the beat, wailing venomously. "De Queen she nothin' but a painted doll". But the voice does not belong to a Jamaican, nor, strictly speaking, to a woman. It comes from the larynx of Kandi, vocalist with the Cassettes and, so it is rumoured, winner of a scholarship to one of London's public schools for girls. She is scarcely pubescent, as sparrow-boned as Paf in her decline, pale as a ghost, with black springs of Afro-permed hair. All round the garage walls are younger children, my own daughter included, mesmerized by the angular act of this gamine.

It had to happen; daughterly demand for "a proper guitar, with wire coming out of it". I offer the usual return of service: "I can't afford it" and back comes the now customary stop-valley: "Then get some more money out of the wall." (A reference to the NatWest service till)

Bobby Marshall "drops by", ostensibly to "laaise" about Saturday but really to do a Mary Whitehouse over the corruptive properties of Kandi and the Cassettes.

She "drops by" again, demanding access to the following: (a) full lyrics of the Cassettes' intended programme at the party; (b) name, address and occupation of Kandi's father; (c) a copy of the local authority music licence for Saturday. As if I should possess any of these. The trouble about such childless busy-bodies is that their caring instincts invariably manifest themselves in blanket censorship. My inner voice suggests she take an acid bath at her earliest convenience, but my outer one refers her to Parvis Maitland. A worse fate by far.

The party is upon us; so too is the world and its wife (by which I mean the Mallards, the Petranellas, the Street Radicals) and its token pensioners, the cats Fidel and Raoul. Morgan Prewitt is of course in attendance, being bribed by his mother into near-tranquillity with a stream of confectionery. If he is quiet, that is only because he is seeking out the most strategic spot at which to throw a Morgasm. Even Caetano the window-smearer and Magnus the roof-burner have turned up - touting for trade I suppose. Kandi, quite repressing the classical scholar within her, is singing: "Gonna take me pistol to de palace". Someone is fiddling with the jackpots in the pre-amp. It is Bobby Marshall, trying to disconnect the band for the good of the community. My son at once slaps in a party bid for "a proper guitar with wires coming out of it". Suddenly it seems so much more effective than conventional terms.

'A woman's place is in the House'

People in their early forties are, nowadays, very fashionable, politically speaking. So it was a chic move on the part of Mrs Thatcher (58 tomorrow) to appoint Emma Nicholson, at "forty-one and eleven twelfths", a smidgin younger than party chairman, John Gummer, as vice-chairman in charge of women.

Emma Nicholson is the daughter of Sir Godfrey Nicholson, a former Tory MP, and a grand-daughter of an earl. One of her sisters is married to a Foreign Office minister, Richard Luce, and another to Sir John Montgomery Cuninghame. Emma wears Jaeger-ish clothes and lives in a pretty cluttered Belgravia mews house. So far, so identical to Tory Lady. She departs from the stereotype in that she was one of the first women in the country to work in computer technology and in always, unwaveringly, putting her career first.

"When I first started work, I found that none of the men I met was at all interested in my job. If I'd had a broader variety of friends then, perhaps, I would have met men who weren't so dismissive, but I didn't. I couldn't fit myself into the suitcases that was all that seemed to be offered to me. I felt that I wanted to learn more."

"So I had to give up the idea of marriage although, obviously, I'm very sorry not to have had children."

Here is the task. Prepare a dish for eight based on two young guinea fowl weighing just over a kilo each. Three garnishes - not in the spring of parsley sense, but the classic French cuisine meaning of formal assemblages of accompanying vegetables and the like - are mandatory. Truffles and caviar are the only forbidden ingredients, but nothing may be prepared or cooked in advance of the four hours allotted for the job.

Ah yes. Your efforts must be set out on a silvered dish of vast expense and placed before six judges, among them chefs of long experience and distinction. Then, when its presentation has been noted, the dish will be tasted and the balance of its flavours, textures and seasoning savoured or suffered.

Nine ambitious young chefs from hotels and restaurants up and down the country exercised their skills within these limits at the Dorchester in London last week. The occasion was a quarter-final of the Prix Tasting, and it produced two semi-finalists, Herbert Berger of the Connaught Hotel, and Arthur Bukalo of the Inigo Jones restaurant in London, who will take on the competition from all over Europe in Paris later this month.

It was a marvellous day to be given fly-on-the-wall licence to watch the cooking, the judging and all the backstage bustle. The recipe,

As compensation, I have always worked terribly hard at friendships.

Graduating from the Royal Academy of Music with not quite enough talent to become a professional musician, she decided that the new field of computer technology sounded challenging. Vocational guidance experts told her that computer companies were unlikely to hire a music graduate who'd given up mathematics for ever at the age of eight. "I was so angry, I looked up 'computers' in the telephone directory and persuaded ICL to give me a test." She passed and began a tough training that became easier once she discovered similarities between music and computing and worked through problems "by applying fugal analysis."

Five years ago, she joined the Save the Children Fund to help with forward planning and is now Director of Fund Raising - "a more elegant term for chief professional beggar."

As an MP's daughter, she opted into politics early. "I have always seen it as the thing that mattered in achieving change for other people and the way to get a wrong put right." In 1979, she contested the Labour stronghold of Blyth in Northumberland, the first woman to do so. She lost the fight but won the highest ever Conservative vote.



Emma Nicholson: down the pits for votes

She sees her present political role as "a kind of constituency task, the 'constituency' being women's votes. I want to make the Conservative Party the natural one for women to join."

I said that this Government has been blamed for making women's

lives more difficult. Cuts in the social services, nursery provision and care for the elderly and a back to the kitchen sink philosophy hardly made the Conservative Party the women's one.

Emma Nicholson said that she didn't expect her job to be easy. "If

you want a soft life, you wouldn't choose to go into politics. It was tough getting the miners' vote in Blyth. But I went down the mines and came up with some of their votes. This is not a marshmallow exercise."

What's needed, she feels, are more women candidates but the problem is the average woman's impossibly stretched timetable. "They're either so busy working their way up the career path or bringing up children or both that they don't have enough mental space to be as involved in politics as I should like them to be."

"Anyone who sits around whining because a woman isn't in a particular position doesn't understand the meaning of the Sex Discrimination Act. Until we get parity in the number of people who apply for jobs, we can't complain about unequal selection. The way to get more women in Parliament is to give selection committees the widest possible choice of candidates."

Well, yes, of course. But selection committees have been offered

Emma Nicholson, a woman of intelligence, enthusiasm and an aptitude for hard work. Had she been a man, did she think that by now, she might have been selected for a winnable seat? "Oh yes", she said. "There are no two ways about that."

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

which follows cannot be attributed to one or several of the chefs whose work was so very enjoyable. Too few of us have access to fresh foie gras for Herbert Berger's puff pastry parcels of breast of guinea fowl with foie gras and sautéed cabbage to be a practical proposition. But the idea is so attractive, and so easily adapted to pleasant and other game birds, or even chicken, that I have done just that - adapted it.

Whether you make one guinea fowl feed two or four people will depend on how much additional stuffing goes into each parcel and the other constituents of the meal as well as the size of the birds themselves.

Breast of guinea fowl in puff pastry

Serves four

1 or 2 guinea fowl, about 1kg (2lb 3oz) each

Onion, carrot, celery and bouquet garni for stock

225g (8oz) chicken or duck livers

300ml (1/2 pint) milk

110g (4oz) clarified or fresh butter

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons port

1 tablespoon cognac

1 shallot or small onion, finely chopped

225g (8oz) fresh mushrooms, chame- relles, caps or large buttons

450g (1lb) puff pastry, homemade or bought

1 egg yolk

For the sauce

1 pint lightly seasoned guinea fowl or chicken stock

2 tablespoons port

150ml (1/4 pint) double cream

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cut the legs off the guinea fowl and use them either for stock or for another dish. Carefully cut the breast meat in one piece from each side, removing the skin and cutting away the white sinew. Set it aside.

Chop the carcass and put it in a large pot with the vegetables and bouquet garni. Cover with water, bring to the boil, skim, season lightly

and simmer for an hour or more.

Carefully pick over the chicken or duck livers (calves liver is another possibility in the absence of foie gras) removing all the stringy bits and any patches of greenish or yellow staining. Cover the livers with milk and leave them to soak for at least an hour, or for several in the refrigerator if you have time.

Soaking in milk softens the flavour of the livers and draws out some blood, making them paler too.

Heat about two tablespoons of the clarified butter in a heavy frying or sauté pan and add the lightly seasoned breast meat. Cook it gently and lightly without allowing it to brown. Remove it as soon as you judge it is cooked but still a little pink in the middle. Set it aside to cool.

Dry the livers well. Add a little more butter to the pan and sauté them briefly, without browning, until they are firm enough to slice. Remove them from the pan and pour off the fat. Add the brandy and port to the pan, stir briefly to dissolve the meat juices and quickly pour off and keep the liquid.

Wipe the pan clean and heat the remaining butter. Fry the shallot or onion until it is tender but not browned. Slice the mushrooms quite thickly and add them to the pan. Cook and season them lightly, drain and set them aside to cool.

Carve the cooked guinea fowl across the grain into neat slices. Slice

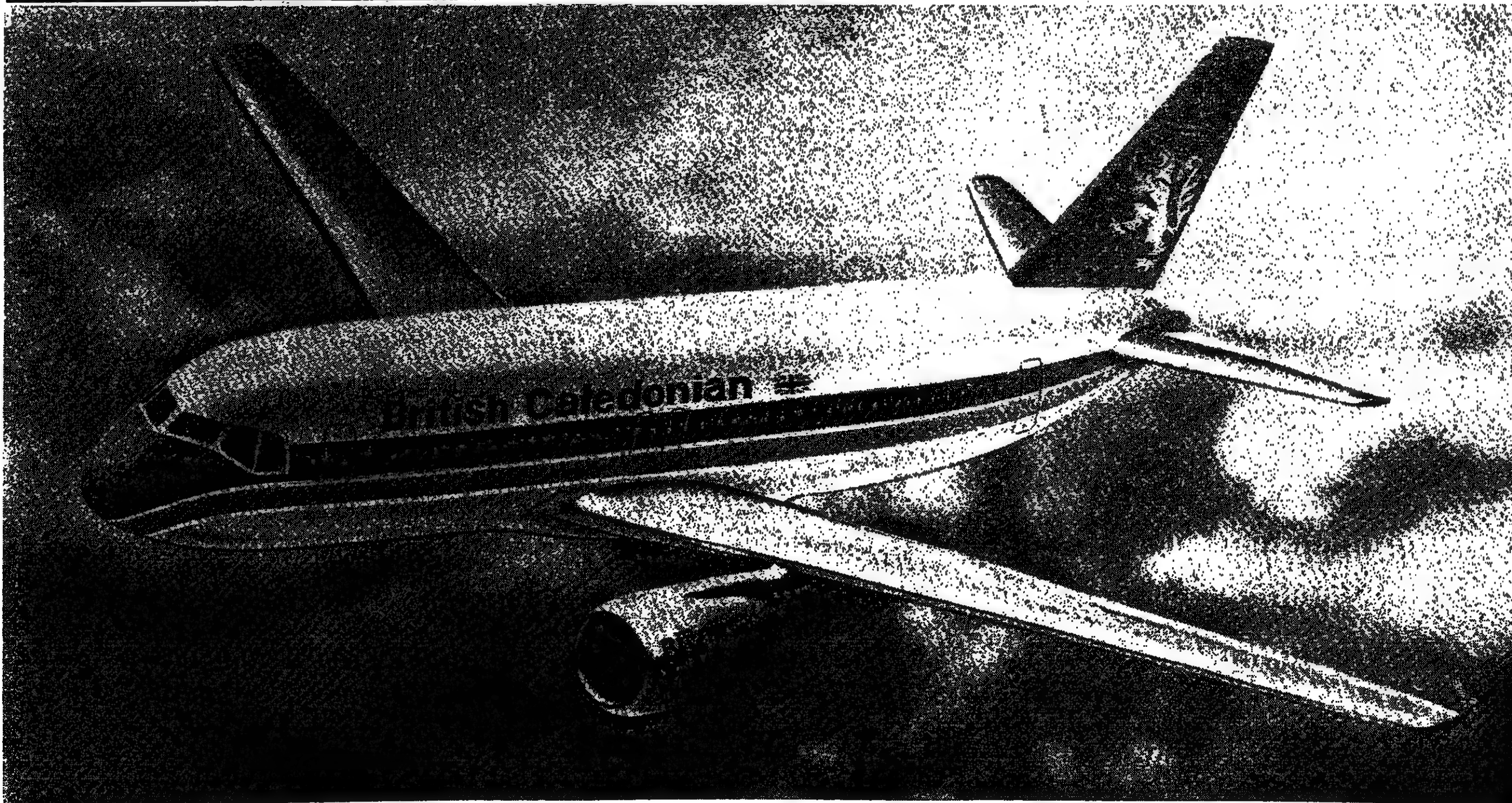
the livers too into pieces of about the same thickness. Place slices of liver between slices of meat to make up groups of slices in the shape of the original breast meat.

Roll out the puff pastry very thinly. Cut four pieces of pastry the same size as the meat and the meat filling. Cut another four pieces the same shape but about 2.5cm (1in) bigger all round.

Divide the mushroom mixture between the four larger pieces of pastry, placing it in a heap in the centre. Now arrange the sliced meat and liver on top. Moisten it with a little of the fortified pan juices. Turn over the edges of the pastry loosely over the filling. Dampen the exposed edges and top with a smaller piece of pastry. Form each of the packets in the same way, then invert them on to a dampened baking sheet so that the joints are out of sight underneath. Decorate with pastry trimmings and chill them for at least half an hour before baking.

Just before baking them paint the tops with a glaze of egg yolk mixed with a tablespoon of water and bake in a preheated hot oven (230°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for about 20 minutes, or until puffed and golden.

Serve immediately with a sauce made by reducing the strained stock to about 150ml (1/4 pint), adding the port and cream, and reducing and seasoning the mixture to taste.



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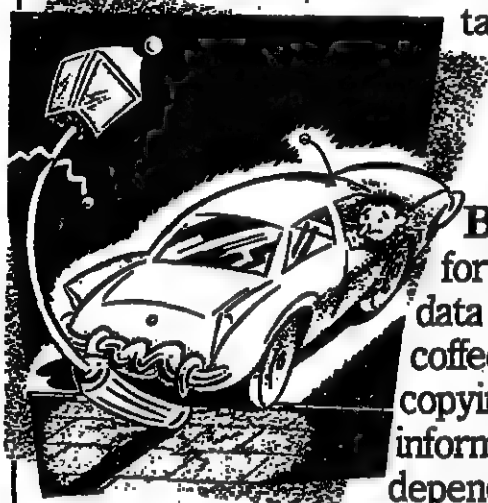
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 **Airbus**

If you thought a ram was only of interest to sheep, read on.

A.

ASCII: Pronounced 'Askey', it stands for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. This international code lays down the binary numbers (0s and 1s) which represent each letter, symbol or number that you can type into a computer. Without ASCII, computers wouldn't be able to talk to each other.



B.

Back-up: The procedure for making copies of vital data in case of fire, flood or coffee damage. Systematic copying and secure storage of information is vital—business depends on it.

BASIC: A computer language conceived to make life easier for novice computer programmers. It stands for Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code.

BASIC has gone on to become the most widely used programming language for microcomputers.

Binary: Computers use a rather similar code to Morse, which has dots and dashes. Some people might actually call it 'a binary asynchronous communications protocol'. But to put it simply binary means two—just two bits of code are used, just like dots and dashes.

Bit: Having grasped the complex mathematics of 'binary' you'll wonder what to call a 'dot' or a 'dash'. It's simple enough—bit.

Buffer: The place in a computer's memory where you put data before processing it.



Bug: A program error. Coined by early computniks who found that insects played havoc with the workings of their huge machines.

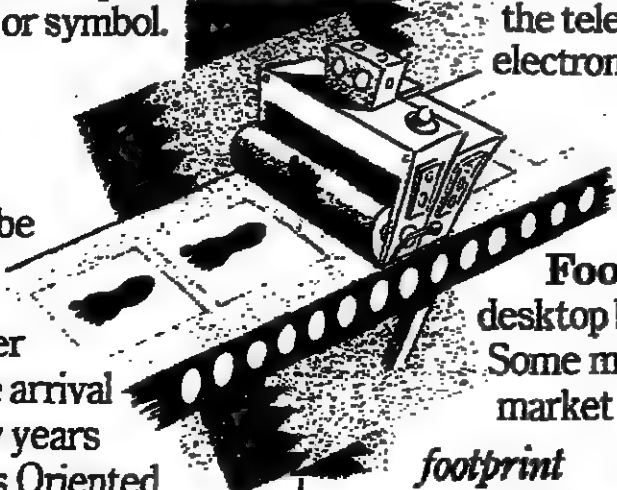
Byte: Short for 'by eight', normally a group of eight bits which contains enough information to represent an ASCII number, letter or symbol.

C.

Character: Any symbol that can be displayed on a computer.

COBOL: The grandad of computer languages and widely used until the arrival of microcomputers *en masse* a few years ago. COBOL, or Common Business Oriented Language, is used by most mainframe and mini-computers. It's been criticised for being too cumbersome (no computer language pleases everyone) but some micros now run it.

Command Driven: A software package controlled by special command words keyed in by the user. Not for novices, who work better with menu driven programs.



F.

Footprint: The space taken up on a desktop by a microcomputer or terminal. Some machines currently on the market have rather big feet.

G.H.

GIGO: Garbage In, Garbage Out. All too often computer errors are not the machine's fault but the operator's.

Hardware: The mechanical, electronic and plastic bits and pieces of a computer.



garbage

E.

Eight-Bit or Sixteen-Bit: The computer industry's answer to 'horsepower'. You don't need to know how many bits a computer has. What matters is 'can it do the accounts?' and 'how many people can use it at the same time?'

Electronic Mail: Services such as Telecom Gold which allow computer terminals to dial up over the telephone network to consult personal electronic mailboxes.



language

M.

Memory: A measure of the power of a computer is its memory capacity. A typical £100 home computer holds about 1,000 characters in its memory—barely enough for a letter.

Something like Merlin's office microsystem (with space for nearly 250,000 characters) can hold a couple of sequels to *The Winds of War*, and let the accountant run his payroll program at the same time.

Menu: To make life easier, many programs ask the operator what he wants to do. They present alternatives—a menu. The MerlinMaster menu program, a feature of the M2200 series, presents you with a list of alternatives. In plain English.

Microspace Justification: A feature of better quality printers that allows printing to look as good as typeset text, with words stretched evenly across the full width of the column.

Modem: Short for modulator/demodulator. It enables you to attach your computer to a telephone line, translating computer signals into those used by the telephone network.

Merlin is the biggest supplier of modems in the country.

Multi-user: Merlin's M2235 microcomputer is powerful enough to support the work of more than one terminal at a time.

I.

Input/Output (I/O): Input is the information fed into a computer. Output is the information produced by the computer.

Interactive: Computers operate on information in different ways. They may be programmed to store up data and programs and to work on them at a given time: this is batch processing. Or they may be required to respond at once—interactive computing. All microcomputers are interactive.

IPSS: International Packet Switched Service. British Telecom's international computer data transmission service.

K.L.

K: Literally, a thousand. In the computer world there are actually 1024 bytes in a K or Kilobyte (not many people know this—not many people need to).

Language: The native language of a computer is the morse code of the binary system, but writing programs in binary is far too cumbersome and long-winded. So, computers have high level languages like BASIC and COBOL which are more like English and describe the work we want to do.

Programs are written in these languages and then translated into binary or machine codes.



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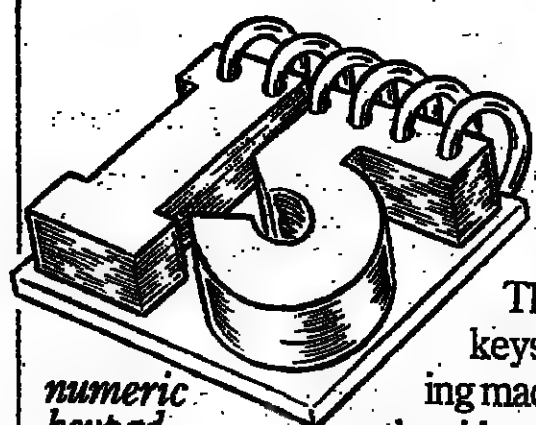
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numeric keypad

N.

Numeric Keypad:

The layout of numeric keys borrowed from adding machines and added to the side of modern computer-keyboards. Allows rapid input of figures, given the right fingertips.

O.R.

Operating System: The operating system keeps track of all those bits and bytes. It tells your machine how to start working and how to interpret any instructions you give it.

Peek: The command you give the computer to move information out of its memory.

Peripherals: The printers, disk drives, keyboards and so on which enable information and programs to be fed in and out of a computer.

Poke: The command you give the computer to move information into its memory.

Port: Point inside a computer where a connection can be made between its processor and peripherals outside the machine.



poke

Q.R.

Qwerty: The classic typewriter keyboard is known by the six letters on the top left hand keys: QWERTY.

RAM: For a computer to work, it has to run a program which has to be inside the computer. It probably takes about 10,000 code words, and they are fed, one at a time, to the central code processor, which the computer is best left to do by itself (it can read its own memory circuits the way you can read a newspaper story).

It can read any memory circuit it likes, at random. That's why it's called 'Random Access' Memory. However, it isn't random. It's fast, direct access. (See ROM).

Report Generator: A program designed to let you select and lay out information that has been produced by the computer.

ROM: Coded information stored in computer memory just evaporates when the computer is switched off. But computers need to be told what to do next time they're turned on. This information is stored in wires. Very fine wires. 100,000 on each chip. The computer can read the codes, but it can't change them. They're called Read-Only Memory - ROM.

RS232: An electrical standard devised for 25-pin plugs and sockets used to link up computers with printers, plotters, modems, and each other.

S.

Serial: When bits are transmitted in a stream down a single wire they're serially transmitted. A parallel bit stream involves sending bits over a number of wires simultaneously.

Software: Refers to all programs which are run on computer hardware. Some software is fed in on tapes and disks, some remains stored permanently on the computer's memory.

There are two types of software; applications software does the work and systems software keeps the computer in line.

Spreadsheet: Financial planning aid that's a clever computerisation of the sheet of paper, pencil, calculator, and rubber.

The first low-cost spreadsheet was introduced in 1978, and was important in making microcomputers respectable tools for today's business.

T.

Teletext: Television based system that displays publicly broadcast information.



software

Telex: The national and international text communication network. Merlin is the biggest supplier of micro-processor based telex terminals in the UK. Both the Merlin M2200 series computers and M3300 word processor can be linked to the telex network.

U.

User Friendly: A claim made by software sellers. Often promised, seldom delivered.

V.

Viewdata: System developed by British Telecom for sending computer data by telephone line for display on low-cost modified television sets and other terminals.

VDU: Visual Display Unit is jargon for the screen attached to your computer.

W.

Wild Card: Facility to allow you to find the information you want when you're not quite sure what you're looking for. Asking for Jock might produce records with Jock and Jockstrap, as well as Joke.

Winchester Disk: There are two types of disk, floppy and hard. Of the two, the hard disk in its sealed container is able to hold much more information which is loaded in to it from cassettes or tapes.

A compact hard disk unit often found in microcomputers is called a Winchester.



wild card

Z.

Zap: When you correct a fault inside the computer's memory by altering its signals you 'Zap' it.

Addenda

Some new or rarely used words, not in everyday use.

Advice If you want to ask an expert about some aspect of a Merlin computer before or after you've bought one, dial 100 and ask for Freefone Merlin.

After Sales Service Many computers have to be looked after by a dealer. He may have to look after lots of makes. Merlin, on the other hand, employs specialists, experts and engineers who handle only Merlin equipment.

Training Courses Merlin have courses to suit all types of business. They range from a half-day introduction to a complete week's training.

Reassurance Will the company you buy your computer from still be in business next year?

Or call us.

Why is it that computer people always talk so that only other computer people can understand them?

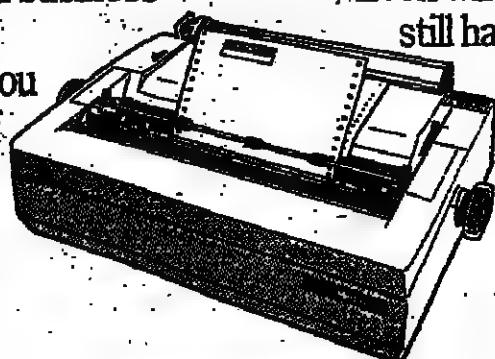
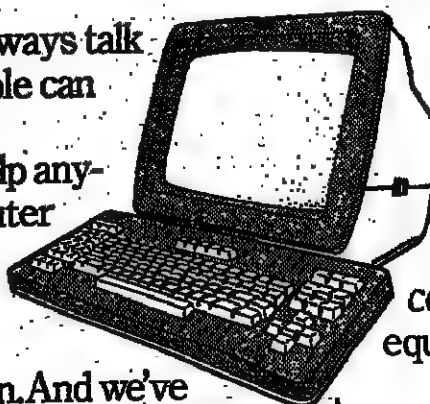
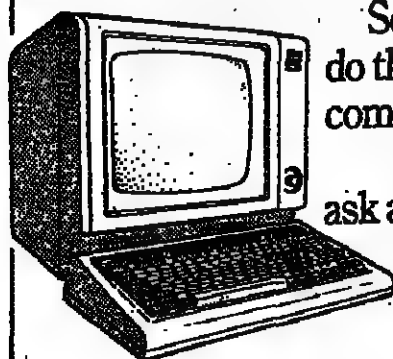
They don't seem keen to help anyone who wants a desk-top computer for their business but hasn't taken a degree in programming.

Merlin is different.

We're British Telecom Merlin. And we've been adapting high technology to the needs of the businessman all our life.

So it was only natural that we'd do the same with small business computers.

Which is why, if you ask about our range of desk-top com-



puters and word processors we'll tell you all about them in a language you'll understand.

English.

Needless to say you'll encounter some jargon. But we'll explain as we go along.

We also don't expect your staff to be as dedicated to a dedicated word processor as we are. Which is why we have a comprehensive series of training courses so that they can make the most of the equipment you buy.

What's the use of paying £3,000 for some hardware (there we go with the jargon again, but we reckon you'll know this one) when you can only use £1,500 worth?

Even when your equipment is installed, you may still have a few teething problems operating the programs you've chosen.

A mental block. You've mislaid the manual or pressed the wrong key.

In that case all you have to do is ring your local Merlin office, and one of our experts will help you solve your problem.

That expert will have exactly the same equipment as you, loaded with exactly the same software. So he or she can duplicate exactly where you got stuck. And tell you how to put it right.

If you're interested in talking to one of our people about your computer needs, it's simple. Just dial 100 and ask for Freefone Merlin.

If you want to be more complicated you can always fill in the coupon:

Please send me information about your word processors and desk-top computers.
To: Victor Brand, Merlin, FREEPOST London SW19 8BR
Name _____
Address _____
Tel. No. _____



Merlin

British Telecom Business Systems

Someone had to make it simpler.

THE TIMES DIARY

Parkinson show

Contrary to the belief of amused Conservative delegates in Blackpool yesterday, the light aircraft trailing the banner "Don't sack Cecil" over the conference centre was not hired by the beleaguered Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, The Cessna 125, which flew for an hour over the area, was piloted by the eccentric Brian Bateson, the local man responsible for flying the message. The Kremlin sends congratulations over the heads of the Greenham Common women earlier this year. Bateson, aged 43, director and chief flying instructor of Blackpool and Fylde Aeroclub, said: "Mr Parkinson needs support and it was about time someone did something about it."

Rum do

The annual public relations razzamatazz surrounding today's launch of the Lamb's Navy Rum calendar has suffered an inauspicious start. Poor David Bailey, who sweated around the French Polynesian island of Bora-Bora for several weeks taking photographs of dusky maidens, complained yesterday of the "stale" design of the invitations. Printed on an 18in long strip of 35mm transparency and delivered in a plastic film tub, they depict various under-dressed ladies accompanied by the caption "A personal invitation for you to get close up to the first exposure of the new 1984... etc." They're gloriously absolutely nothing to do with the or Lamb's, stormed Bailey.

Sentimental agent

The new Sean Connery movie was premiered in Hollywood the other evening. It is not that most awaited 1960s revival, his return as James Bond in *Never Say Never*, for which he received a reported \$3m, but a short film on his home town of Edinburgh, for which he received no fee at all. However, he does receive Bond's footsteps by going up the steps of Fettes College, the Eton of the north and the alma mater chosen by Ian Fleming for his unshaken and seldom stirred hero. Connery himself had a more modest education elsewhere in Edinburgh before graduating to the horse and cart of the dairy in Fountainbridge.

Slow starter

Is the youthful-looking Bamber Gascoigne's comfortable reign as chairman of Granada's *University Challenge* coming to an end? The future of the programme, in its 21st year, is threatened by the decision of London Weekend Television not to include the new series in its schedules when it begins on October 23. LWT says it no longer has the air time to give the quiz a regular slot. Likewise Thames Television has decided not to displace another network programme to place it. So Londoners will no longer witness Gascoigne (Rion and Magdalene College, Cambridge Scholar), aged 48, calling for starters for 10. Granada's programme controller, Michael Scott, said LWT's decision is sad and will probably have a knock-on effect. But no one need worry about Gascoigne, who has many writing and publishing interests.

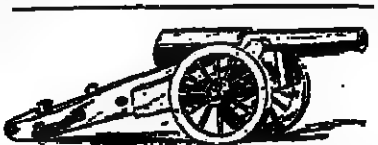
BARRY FANTONI



"But will he still be able to use his pass?"

Change of tone

Stanley Black may have misunderstood the arts for the proletariat policy of the Greater London Council when he arrived to conduct the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the body plant canteen at Ford's Dagenham works yesterday. The concert was part of lefty GLC arts chairman Tony Banks's scheme to encourage performers to take themselves out of the better known cultural centres and provide intellectual refreshment for the workers. On arrival at Ford's desert in the midst of industrial Essex, Black asked a bemused official: "Where's my room?"



We all know Norman Fowler is under siege over health and social security cuts. But did he have to bring in the Army? Dr John Spackman, aged 51, is to be the new director of operational strategy in the DHSS on a £31,000-a-year salary. His current job, with the tank of brigadier, is running the computers in the Army's supply system, and he is said to have many years' experience in controlling large high technology projects in the MoD and Nato. Perhaps Norman is planning to make the Treasury.

PHS

Jobless: Prior's grim forecast

Prior: I think one of the extraordinary things about my position is that I have been regarded by the Conservative Party ever since 1974 as a person who was seeking a compromise and a way of uniting people, whether it be trade unionists or whoever, and I presume that that was one of the reasons why in the end I was sent to Northern Ireland. There may have been other reasons as well, but that was one of them. And yet I suppose I have been the subject of almost more controversy in the views that I held than any other leading politician in the party.

I sometimes think my opponents can't have it both ways. They can't say to me, "You're a compromiser" on the one hand and then on the other hand, "You are always leading revolts against the leadership". The fact of the matter is that those who have tended to take my point of view - the so-called wets, if one has to give them a name - haven't perhaps given as much credit to the supply-siders as the dries have deserved for what they have accomplished.

And I don't think the dries have given much credit to the wets both for what they have sought to achieve in retaining those values of compassion and understanding which have always been a part of the Conservative Party. And also our desire to accept a large degree of radical reform. I don't think we do ourselves any good by continuing the argument in the barren way that it has been conducted in the past few years.

But are the main arguments about the fundamental nature and logic of the Government's economic policy over?

Prior: I think there is far less argument about that now than there was. I don't see nowadays the constant reiteration of money supply being the only thing that matters that one saw five, six, seven years ago. I don't see the constant reiteration that supply side economics can put everything right that I did a few years ago. On the other hand, I have to say that on my side of the party there is a much greater realization that there are limitations on the amount of money that one can actually pump in.

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the economy now?

Prior: I am certainly more optimistic than I was. I think the recovery has been patchy and I am still deeply worried about the level of unemployment, but certainly I think that there is a much greater realization in management and on the shop floor about what we have to do. I see no reason why we shouldn't achieve reasonable levels of growth, and I am glad that interest rates have come down, and I am glad that the pound has fallen in value.

Government economic policy has again been attacked by a number of senior Conservatives, among them John Biffen, Leader of the House, and Francis Pym, former Foreign Secretary. In the last Parliament, one of the Government's most persistent critics from within its own ranks was James Prior, Employment Secretary until becoming Secretary for Northern Ireland. Yet he has remained on the Cabinet's key "E" Committee, which formulates economic policy. In an interview with George Brock and Nicholas Wapshott, he began by explaining his sometimes awkward position in the Conservative Party.

Looking back over the years, I think one of my difficulties with the policy as it was originally enunciated was the high interest rate, high exchange rate policy. I think that the policy which we have pursued for the past few years has been very reasonable. I think that the relations have helped stimulate in a sensible way while at the same time keeping a tight control over public borrowing.

I have always been an optimist. But I don't think that the world is going to get back into the massive growth rates of the fifties and sixties and we do have to face up to the fact that as an old country we have become uncompetitive in many aspects. We are facing the full flood of competition from the labour market-oriented economies of the Far East and we face the problems of technology. I don't believe that simply pumping money into the economy at the rate the Labour Party suggests as a means of reducing unemployment would work. I don't think that even Keynes would be favouring a massive increase in public expenditure.

Therefore I think we have to recognize that unemployment as measured in a conventional sense is going to remain high in Western society and therefore you have to be thinking the whole time of new ways of seeking to tackle the problems of unemployment and new ways of presenting the fact.

How long do you expect the present high levels of unemployment will last?

Prior: I have to say that for the whole of this decade we are going to be faced with a very difficult unemployment problem and I don't believe we are going to be able to



solve the problem by simply, on the one hand pumping in vast sums of money, or on the other relying on the economy through changes on the supply side to bring about a transformation.

We shall have to do very well over the next few years to decrease unemployment by the methods which have proved successful in the past and I think that we have got to think of new ways of doing so. I don't think that we should be ashamed of saying what the debate is about, but one shouldn't put it in such a way that one is being callous about it.

Do you think that the Government has appeared too hard-hearted?

Prior: I think that it would be unfair to suggest that the Government is hard-hearted. There are elements in the Conservative Party who regard some of us as softies and that they are the only ones who are prepared to accept the hard arguments. I am quite prepared to put across very hard arguments and talk very toughly on things like wage increases and the need for greater efficiency and so on.

Yet at the same time I recognize that there are vast numbers of people in Britain who are intensely patriotic and proud of what they are doing but don't actually aspire to greatness in society, they just want to go about their ordinary daily task and live with their families in reasonable conditions. They have just as much dignity and deserve just as much respect as those who are able to be the front-runners in society.

Sometimes I think that we tend, for reasons of economics or because of our backgrounds, to think that everyone has got to be tremendously efficient and tremendously able and

enterprising and so on. That isn't what society is made up of. I can play a part in putting forward our policies in a sensible, reasonable, understanding way. Sometimes we don't always do so.

If the Government does not deliberately soften its image, will it not be vulnerable to David Owen and the SDP?

Prior: I think that Dr Owen's tactics may be the correct ones for him, which makes it even more important that people like myself should be seen to be playing a major part in the Conservative Party, not shirking the difficult decisions but seeking to explain them and showing the compassionate side. Compassion is a word that I am in no way ashamed of using.

I have represented a predominantly working class constituency all my time in Parliament and I could never have been elected unless vast numbers of very decent, ordinary working class people had not voted me in. Now, they don't resent the fact that I had a public school education. They don't resent the fact that I am a member of Bupa or what have you. They know all these things. They know I live in a bigger house than most of them and that I have a farm. They still vote for me. I sometimes wonder why, but they still vote for me.

Are you not open to charges of disloyalty to the Prime Minister to open up a wider debate about unemployment and the economy?

Prior: I don't think I have said anything on this subject in this interview which has been in any way disloyal to the Prime Minister. Therefore, if I can say what I have just said without it in any way being disloyal to the Prime Minister, I don't see why there shouldn't be a very considerable debate on it. I think it could achieve a great deal for us.

We have to understand on my side of the party the necessity for pretty tough measures and I think the other side of the party has to understand that if those measures are going to succeed and you are going to build a decent society then you are doing but you have to help in every way that you can. It's something we ought to be able to do in a second period of government.

It has been said that you are bored with your job as *Under Secretary* and would like another job. Is that so?

Prior: No, it's totally untrue. If I were bored by the job I certainly wouldn't have told Mrs Thatcher that I was keen to go back after the election. I was extremely keen to go back, because I felt that I had started something in the Assembly, albeit something that was going to take time, and I wished to go back in a position where the Secretary of State didn't have to begin all over again.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Ray Buckton, shunted in to stage-manage the purchase of a theatre on the rocks

Enter left, brandishing rulebook

You will hardly believe this - I found it difficult to credit myself - but, not content with the newspaper and the bank that they intend to found and run (both of which wonderfully lunatic projects I have recently discussed here), the trade unions are now proposing to buy and manage a theatre.

The theatre is the Mermaid, which is unfortunately now for sale after falling into financial difficulties. Mr Abdul Shamji and his firm, Gomba, had made a bid for it, but the union consortium (Municipal and Boleynmakers, TGVU, Nalco and Nuppe) has now entered the auction, and may yet snatch the prize from beneath Mr Shamji's nose, particularly if they can get their bank founded in time to advance the cash for the purchase; the question of arranging for favourable reviews of the plays in the TUC's newspaper can presumably wait for a bit, but the money might be a little shy if they approached ordinary sources of finance, if only because those in the business of advancing risk capital have probably noticed that most of our union leaders cannot run a union, never mind a newspaper or a bank, and Mr Ray Buckton, who is apparently in charge of the project, has not hitherto been known as an expert either on drama itself or the successful business management of playhouses and productions, or on anything else much, for that matter.

So Messrs Codron and White, Hall and Nunn are probably not contemplating suicide at the thought of the new competition putting them out of business, and anyone who has read Hall's recently published *Diaries* will recall the effects of union action in his case, which was to bring the National Theatre to the very edge of closure and ruin and persuade Hall to vote Conservative for the first time in his life.

There is something wonderfully touching in the dotiness of this recent passion among the unions for venturing into areas of enterprise which require huge sums of money (and enormous reserves of specialized skills, none of which they seem financial straits already - indeed, one or two are not far from insolvency - and this state of affairs is almost certainly about to be,

abruptly, much worse, following the ruling that the sums advanced for the building of the new Labour Party headquarters should not have come from the unions' general funds. Part of the unions' money troubles can be attributed to the fact that unemployed members do not pay much in the way of subscriptions, and a general falling-off in the rate of recruitment has added to the decline in income, but most of the difficulty comes from good, old-fashioned incompetence, reflected in the appallingly high proportion of union funds that goes on administration - or bureaucracy, as the unions call it when they are attacking the government. Indeed, we have just seen a striking demonstration of the critical financial situation among the unions in the news that some of them - by no means all obscure or small ones - have been obliged, for the first time, to reduce the number of votes they buy at the Labour Party conference (they get exactly as many as they pay for - it is called an "affiliation fee" - and the numbers affiliated have traditionally borne little resemblance to the numbers of those eligible to be affiliated).

And this is the movement that wants to run a newspaper, a bank and a theatre! For all I know, plans are already well advanced for the TUC to go into all sorts of other businesses - a chain of men's outfitters, say (foot-wide lapels guaranteed), or of grocery shops (no Chilean coffee sold), or a travel agency ("See the nightclubs of Moscow and the steel mills of East Germany - One-way tickets at fantastic discounts").

But a theatre? A theatre? Let us try to envisage the scene, literally as well as figuratively.

First of all, the name will have to go; Mermaid is far too frivolous, and there would certainly be complaints that it is sexist as well. The name of the union playhouse should reflect

its ownership, its aims and the kind of thing to be found on its boards. How about *The Proletariat*? (I can see the advertising campaign already: "What's on at The Proletariat tonight, darling?") Or, if a more human touch is thought desirable, what about *The Len Murray*? Some of the possibilities are fully interchangeable with names that I helpfully proposed for the TUC's newspaper - *The Reference Book*, for instance, or *The Composite Resolution*; other ideas can be sought in the history of this great movement of ours, such as *The Peterloo Massacre*, *The Tolpuddle Martyrs* or *The Forty-Hour Week* (some of these sound more like pubs than theatres, I admit, but that might not be a bad thing as far as enticing the customers is concerned).

Then there is the question of repertoire. Here I have to offer the new management a word of warning: if they imagine that all those earnest left-wing playwrights - Griffiths, Edgar, Hare, Brenton, Barker - are going to rush forward with their plays, proud to have them put on at The Death to Blacklegs, they are right, but if they think that the earnest left-wing playwrights in question, seized by comradely feelings, are going to waive their royalties, I fear that disappointment may soon be felt backstage at The Flying Picket.

Even plays which are out of copyright, and on which therefore no royalties are payable, will pose problems. Shakespeare will be banned for a start: his attitude to the working-class, particularly in *Julius Caesar*, *Henry VI, Part II* and *Coriolanus*, is lamentably reactionary, and if the TUC Folderclocks should mount a production of *Hamlet* they will have to cut Act V, Scene I, or risk having the place picketed by the Gravediggers' Union, understandably affronted by

6 If they think that all those earnest left-wing playwrights, seized by comradely feelings, are going to waive their royalties, I fear that disappointment may soon be felt backstage at The Flying Picket 9

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Shelve this costly library plan

For the first time in a decade I have managed to forgo the pleasures of the party conference. Not for me Sir Ian Gilmour on *The Strange Death of Tory England*, the exchange with the Fourth Estate of scabrous gossip (in the cause of public morality) about the private lives of senior ministers, and advice from Julian Critchley about appropriate epithets for the Prime Minister. My guess is that, notwithstanding the interesting advance speculation, it will all turn out to be pretty much the victory celebration that it ought to be. But even if I am wrong and the journalists enjoy some of the insights that they largely missed at Brighton, I shall shed no tears for my absence.

Instead I have been giving thought to next week's confrontation in Cabinet on next year's spending plans. We are told that Peter Rook, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is still about £1½ billion short of his target for economies. If it is not too late, I would like to remind him of one candidate which seems so far to have escaped his attention. I refer to the British Library.

For those who have not followed the story so far, Shirley Williams approved in 1976, and Norman St John-Stevas endorsed in 1980, a plan to build a brand new British Library on a 9½-acre site next door to Euston Station. Since then the Prince of Wales has laid a foundation stone, and the bulldozers have got to work. But there are rumblings of discontent within the estate establishment. Professor Hugh Thomas - Lord Thomas, head of the Centre for Policy Studies and one of the Prime Minister's closest advisers - has mustered a formidable lobby of supporters, ranging from Sir Karl Popper to Lord Kaddor, from Sir John Bejerman to Iris Murdoch, in defence of the existing British Museum Reading Room in Bloomsbury, and produced a cheaper plan.

Lord Thomas and his friends are primarily motivated by allegiance to the Reading Room. So they want to "use the Euston Road site as a giant storehouse for all the books that the Reading Room cannot accommodate. This would be linked to Bloomsbury by an underground railway which, they are advised, would cost £2m to build. The whole thing, they estimate, would cost "not much more than" the £38m (in 1981 prices) earmarked for just the first stage of the official plan. By contrast, the official scheme, when complete, was estimated to cost £184m in 1977. Lord Thomas' thinks that

should be amended to more than £300m by now, and reckons that if we proceed, the final bill will not show much change from £600m. I am sure he is right about that. However, having read his persuasive pamphlet published soon after the general election, I wonder whether the Treasury might not wisely take advantage of the present disarray in the groves of academe and scrap the whole thing altogether.

The justification for this huge piece of public works - apart from the natural inclination of all institutions to get themselves a monument - is that all the books the Reading Room cannot accommodate (and it is supposed to receive a copy of every book published) have to be shipped off to dim and distant Woolwich, whence it takes all of 24 hours to collect, not even for would-be readers. Still, I suppose 24 hours is no longer an accommodation, all those who require to use it; and that in this day and age it is nothing short of a scandal that we do not have a custom-built, properly air-conditioned sanctuary for the national archive.

Now, according to Lord Thomas and his allies, if it was true that the Reading Room was short of seats back in the 1960s, that is not the case today. Still, I suppose 24 hours is an unreasonable time to wait for the volume of one's choice; and while the nation's stock of books has multiplied for 200 years without the benefit of proper air-conditioning, now that such scientific aids to preservation are on offer, our descendants might say thank-you to us for making use of them. But for £38m? Let alone £600m?

Nor is it just the capital cost which should terrify the Treasury. There is also the little matter of the running costs. Fifteen years ago the component bodies which are due to form the British Library limped along, it seems, with a payroll of £50. Last year this had grown to £1,500. The smart new palace on the Euston Road will apparently need £200 to keep it open. We have it on the authority of John Biffen that the Tory party traditionally respects the role of public institutions. So be it. But here we have a brand new one which, Lord Thomas is correct, no one wants. They could even sell the Euston Road site outright and credit that against the PSBR for 1984.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne was Economic Secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

James Curran

The Big Sister state rolls a little closer

The findings of the draft report into extreme right-wing penetration of the Conservative Party, produced by a committee of young Conservatives with the blessing of the former party chairman, raise uncomfortable questions about the direction in which the Tory party is turning.

It appears that not only have some people from the neo-Nazi fringe infiltrated the party but that some have actually stood as official Conservative candidates in general and local elections.

But though this report will be gleefully pounced on by some socialist propagandists, neo-Nazis have, in reality, only an insignificant place within the Conservative Party. Far more frightening in many ways are the civilised and undeniably democratic members of the New Right, operating from such base camps as the Conservative Philosophy Group, the Social Affairs Unit and the Centre for Policy Studies, because they do occupy places of influence in the heartland of the Conservative Party.

A main thrust of their arguments, forcefully expressed within the elite echelons of the party, is that the role of the state needs to be strengthened rather than weakened in many areas of everyday life. As Maurice Cowling, an influential Conservative ideologue, argues in a seminal essay, "Authority should be the byword of freedom."

The impact of these ideologues, and of the debilitating effects of the Irish question on British politics can be seen in a number of recent developments as well as proposals for the next session of Parliament. Taken together, they represent a significant lurch towards an authoritarian state.

In a move unprecedented in educational history, Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, sought last month to lay down the parameters of correct thinking in schools. He told a joint council of the O-level and CSE boards, preparing the syllabus of the proposed common 16-plus examination, that reference should be omitted from the physics curriculum to "the social and economic issues which arise from scientific knowledge."

In the case of the history syllabus, Sir Keith demanded "Acknowledgement that one of the aims of studying history is to understand the development of the shared values which are a distinctive feature of British society."

If a socialist Education Secretary had the temerity to tell schools that "one of the aims of studying history is to understand the oppositional values which are a distinctive feature of the class struggle in British society", it would be no less objectionable. Politicians, left or right, should be discouraged from defining for teachers the ideological aims of the classroom.

Sir Keith's clumsy attempt at ideological engineering comes at a time when ideological scanning by the state has become more obtrusive.

Just as plastic bullets were first tried out in Northern Ireland, then adopted by many police forces in Britain, so techniques of surveillance developed in the context of the Irish conflict are also being shipped across to Britain.

The recent experience of Mrs Madeleine Haigh, who, after writing a letter to her local paper opposing the siting of cruise missiles, received a visit from Special Branch officers claiming to investigate a mail-order fraud (a claim which later proved to be bogus) has received extensive press coverage as an exceptional case. But the National Council for Civil Liberties has shown me papers which suggest that the Special Branch has developed dossiers on many law-abiding citizens, from opponents of blood sports, people frequenting homosexual pubs, those involved in the admirable "marching post" foundations in Britain, to activists in the peace campaign. Confirmation that this surveillance has become excessive is provided by the symbolic decision of the Cornwall and Devon police taken last year to weed out a large number of Special Branch files on their local citizenry.

Yet, instead of seeking to roll back the frontiers of the state, the Government is actively extending its scope and range. Its proposed Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will extend the stop-and-search powers of the police force, and enable the detention of suspects for four days without charge. The supposedly temporary Prevention of Terrorism Act, hurriedly introduced after the Birmingham pub bombing in 1974, will be renewed in the next Parliament with its worst aspects intact. Even though only 2.1 per cent of 5,555 people arrested under its auspices have eventually been charged with offences under the Act, it will still be used to harass the Catholic Irish community in increasingly counter-productive intelligence-gathering exercises.

The Government also intends, in the next Parliament, to entrench the power of the centralized state in a way that is provoking opposition even from its most loyal supporters. Since 1951, local authorities have enjoyed the freedom to levy rates at whatever level they desired. This power now constitutes the one key area of decision-making left to local councils, already reduced by a series of centralizing measures to a minor, subaltern role. If this power is removed by central government *diktat*, as is being proposed, there will be little incentive for people to take part in local elections and still less scope for councillors to serve their constituents.

There was a time when conservatism was associated with getting central government off the backs of the people. This remains part of the rhetoric of platform speakers at the Conservative conference in Blackpool. But the rhetoric is now ceasing to connect with reality, as we move towards a Big Sister state.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*.



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THE CRIME OF VIOLENCE

The motion for debate on the Conservative Party agenda is seldom the precise motion on which the minds, hearts and speeches of most of the Tory representatives are concentrated. It is usually one which maximizes agreement and minimizes dissent - which was the case with the motion yesterday on law and order, which did no more than ask the government to take "further measures to strengthen the force of law." But a sensible Cabinet Minister on such occasions directs his speech to what is in the minds of his party and that is what Mr Leon Brittan did yesterday when he addressed the conference for the first time as Home Secretary.

What the conference wanted was stiffer sentencing for serious, and particularly violent crimes. The intense concern of the Tories in the constituencies was shown by the very large number of motions submitted on law and order - 99 compared with 27 on defence, 20 on the economy and 55 on employment and industrial relations. Overwhelmingly these demanded heavier penalties and greater realism in sentencing, which was also the sense of most of the speeches from the floor yesterday, though some sensibly reminded the conference that detection and punishment are not all sufficient remedies for a violent society.

The challenge to the government was that despite the money given to the police, and more intelligent policing methods, crime is rising. Every day the public is made aware of some new unspeakable vile offence against the person, and often the most vulnerable, the old, the very young, or women. That was the rationale behind the demands for a return of the death

penalty which the House of Commons rightly rejected as incompatible with the moral climate of the time. It is also the rationale behind the demand for heavier sentences now.

It is made not simply by Conservatives, but by a majority of voters who support all parties. On the "soft" side of the penal argument, what is usually stressed is the need for better detection of the criminal. That goes without saying, but it should equally go without saying that the vicious criminal has little to fear from detection if a soft sentence follows. What is no less serious, is the demoralizing effect of soft sentencing on both the police and the public. The police ask what is the point of taking risks to secure a criminal who pays a comparatively small price for his callousness. The public may lose confidence in the criminal justice system, and become less willing to give the police the co-operation on which successful detection often depends.

Having announced, at the time of the capital punishment debate, that twenty year minimum sentences will apply to those who murder police officers, Mr Brittan now intends to apply the same rule to those who murder prison officers, to terrorists and to those who commit sexual or sadistic murders of children. Those who kill when committing robberies with firearms will also serve a twenty year sentence and there will be "very long sentences" for killers of nightwatchmen, postoffice staff and others who do jobs that make them vulnerable. Very sensibly, Mr Brittan also intends to legislate to increase the maximum sentence for carrying firearms to life imprisonment,

and also to enable the Attorney General to refer over-zealous sentences to the Court of Appeal which would virtually indicate the proper penalty in future similar cases, though without altering the sentence of the case referred.

None of these changes infringes the tradition that the hands of the judiciary should not be tied, and that judges should be free to determine sentences in the light of individual circumstances. Without recourse to mandatory sentencing, he is signalling to the judiciary that, since life imprisonment means life unless he commutes it, he will not commute it to less than twenty years for the stated offences. That is a wise course and so is his proposal to meet public criticism of the gap between other sentences and the imprisonment served for them by new arrangements with the parole board.

To combine these changes with an attempt to clear the prisons of lesser offenders must be right and the Home Secretary will be widely supported. Yet in the end, the violence of a society is not merely determined by detection and penalties. It is a cultural phenomenon. The easy violence on television, film and video is part of this cultural phenomenon, and many people, producers, writers and businessmen, not to say the consuming public have responsibilities for it. It defies common sense to think that treating cruelty and violence as legitimate entertainment has no effect on behaviour. If the public itself will make it clear that it will not support a culture of violence, that would be at least as beneficial to a decent society as the measures Mr Brittan announced yesterday.

MR HESELTINE'S OPPORTUNITY

Mr Michael Heseltine has a chance today at Blackpool to show that the Government's thinking about British defence policy goes beyond the question of the nuclear deterrent. His White Paper in July was brutally upstaged the next day by the Chancellor's peremptory cuts. But it would be a pity if Mr Heseltine's sense of outrage at that treatment throws him in opposition to the idea of any cuts, simply to prove that he cannot be pushed around. Cuts in defence there can be, and should be. With a little extra courage and some not very radical analysis Mr Heseltine could achieve both defence cuts and an improvement in Britain's long-term defences.

On mobilization the British Army is brought up to strength by reservists so that its order of battle consists of at least one-third part-time soldiers. The other two services have a smaller reserve component, but also a smaller capability for expansion. Since the abolition of conscription British military manpower has been reduced steadily - 13 per cent in the last ten years - with very little provision for expansion, unlike all the other European allies.

Britain thus suffers two penalties for the maintenance of strictly volunteer forces. It pays a much higher price for a much smaller military capability, in all three services, than any of the allies. Secondly it is condemned to a narrow military base which is unable to achieve the necessary expansion and is constantly being narrowed even further.

The rising cost of equipment and manpower over the last 20 years has shown that it is not possible to maintain all-volunteer forces at the original strength envisaged when con-

scription was abolished. Decline since 1962 has been unrelenting. It will become worse after 1986 when the number of young men between 15 and 24 will fall substantially and continue falling for ten years.

Labour governments have responded to this by ignoring the structural consequences and continuing with cuts. If a Conservative government is to have any claim to be the Party which shows respect for Britain's real security interests, it should now seize the opportunity of a radical restructuring in defence to achieve a better future.

This will involve breaking down the rigidities of manpower policy, career structure, procurement procedures and operational deployment which have paralysed the system hitherto. On manpower the present fixed ratios between regular and reservist forces should be revised. For too long the regular forces have been cut without any matching provision for expanding our military base in such an emergency. They could in fact be cut much more with the right machinery for expansion, which would draw on a much wider reserve of men and women taking part in properly constructed reservist schemes with appropriate training.

Once the armed forces can be weaned away from a natural obsession with structure, and protecting their narrowing base, manning levels in the forces could be fundamentally and profitably reassessed with a view to raising productivity in peace time. The ratio of officers to men needs to be reviewed. It compares unfavourably with many modern armed forces. So does the strength of each force, compared to its potential fire-

power. There will be a need for more recruitment of women, which should match the abolition of a ponderous career structure which guarantees servicemen a lifetime in the armed forces followed by pensions and associated services which cost £3,000 annually for each member of the armed forces. To that must be added their housing, the education of their children, and all their health and welfare which is carried on the defence budget.

On equipment policy there should be similar revision. The needs of an elite force, with high standards of professionalism, have led to a pervasive determination to purchase only the best equipment, designed and built in Britain. It is ironic that so much of this equipment was then shown up last year in a contest which had been able to buy its equipment on the open market. The cost advantages of more standardization within Nato, longer production runs, and more improvisation would be manifest.

Finally, deployment. The Soviet threat is met in Central Europe by forces of which the British contribution is a tiny part. Britain is much the best endowed European power to contribute to the emerging threat somewhere on the flanks since otherwise the Americans would be left to do it alone. In the 1980s the preponderance of British forces permanently maintained on the European continent should be lightened, with Britain's Rhine Army reduced and the Air Force redeployed. It is a complicated and radical exercise which is required. That is the challenge facing Mr Heseltine today.

MURDER IN RANGOON

The bomb explosion in Rangoon on Sunday which killed four South Korean Cabinet ministers and fifteen other people is the second tragedy to have struck South Korea in less than two months. In terms of its international significance, it does not compare with the destruction of the South Korean airliner off Sakhalin Island on September 1. Even its effect on South Korean domestic politics is unlikely to be excessively damaging. President Chun Doo Hwan has lost two of his most senior economic advisers, as well as a foreign minister of unusual ability and experience, as the result of the bombing. But he is in the fortunate position of being able to draw on a large pool of administrative talent, so his losses, though serious, are not irreplaceable. Even so, the bombing outrage is bound to increase the siege mentality of the South Korean government.

President Chun has had no hesitation in blaming the bombing on North Korea. The North Korean government of President Kim Il Sung is a particularly unpleasant regime which relies on a personality cult even more

odious than those of Stalin and Mao. Such an act of violence would be quite within its abilities. But there are grounds for questioning whether the North Koreans were, in fact, involved. Burma is one of the few Asian countries with which North Korea has good relations and the North Koreans would be unlikely to jeopardize their friendship with the Burmese in such a way.

There are moreover a number of minority and other dissident groups within Burma itself which might equally well have been responsible. Nonetheless President Chun is likely to stick to his conviction that the North Koreans were behind the bombing, and in one sense it is his conviction that matters. The bombing incident will reinforce the strident anti-communism of the government in South Korea and will probably lead to a further tightening of political control.

The state of confrontation which has existed in the Korean peninsula since the time of the Korean war is of little benefit to any of the principal parties concerned. None of the major

Trustworthiness as touchstone in public office

From Mr A. B. Ducker
Sir, In the Parkinson affair, it is a pity that you concentrated your editorial upon current sexual attitudes more than on the simple precepts of honesty and fidelity.

Apart from the unnecessary suffering caused to the women personally involved, the importance for the nation at large rests in the fact that honesty and fidelity have been shown deficient in the character of a person appointed to represent us in high matters of state. Ordinary people at home and the representatives of other countries abroad, can perceive this fact, and it is the Prime Minister's duty to act to restore the trustworthiness of her Government.

Yours truly,
A. B. DUCKER,
Donnybrook,
College Road,
Bath, Avon,
October 7.

From Mr Anthony Smith, QC
Sir, Yours is not a little paper run by a dated clique of aging public schoolboys raising laughs and circulation out of the follies of others. Because we all commit folly of some kind, it is easy enough for others to talk up such folly indiscriminately to destroy. On the part of the supposedly responsible it can be intellectual vandalism.

In my judgment few politicians of any party inspire by appearance much admiration for real ability. For this observer, Mr Parkinson's appearance have for some years constituted a notable exception to that rule. I would not have thought the manifestation of honesty, or love, or loyalty, or even of sin that is supposed to be original and in us all, reveals such startling defects of character as to make him less fit to serve the rest of us now than he was when we did not know.

In the age of vaunted permissiveness and liberalism, when even what was recently thought unattractive vice can be condoned as real love from the pulpit, there are still ways for establishment journals to make Parnells and Dilkes. I am disappointed that your paper, after all these years, should give the appearance of seeking them out.

A defence would have been more impressive. It would have been more useful, perhaps, to those whose sufferings you lament, too.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY SMITH,
Skeffington House,
Skeffington, Leicester.

Cenotaph ceremony

From Mr J. M. Rex
Sir, I find Mr Wheldon's letter (September 30) and his frustration understandable, but inappropriate. His motivation, however, seems exclusively political. Those who died are, at one and the same time, the nation's dead, yet unpossessable. They belong to no political party.

There are still many opportunities to honour them, privately, in churches and at other ceremonies throughout this country each November, in addition to the honour and recognition paid by the Head of State at the Cenotaph.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES REX,
15 Southfield Road,
Westbury-on-Trym,
Bristol,
Avon,
October 3.

On the wrong tack?

From Lord Brabazon of Tara
Sir, I feel I must protest at Sir Eric St Johnston's letter (October 1) proposing the burying of the America's Cup and the scrapping of 12-metre racing. The series gave many people all over the world a great deal of excitement and enjoyment, as well as the four million people who visited Rhode Island to see it.

In an age when so many sportsmen seem to demand a subsidy from taxpayer or ratepayer before taking to their chosen field, and there are so many so willing to distribute largesse providing someone else is paying, it is, I agree, unfashionable for someone actually to want to spend his own money in the attempted fulfilment of a dream.

Sir Eric suggests each country which has built a 12-metre should build two sail-training ships, but they were all built by individuals or syndicates, not by countries.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From the Reverend Richard James
Sir, While our hearts go out to all those directly affected by this tragic situation, its indirect consequences are equally disquieting.

Why, if it is purely a private matter, was any public statement from No 10 deemed so necessary and issued so promptly?

Is the question of resignation ruled out so categorically because adultery, like any other sin repeated of can be fully forgiven, or because it is considered insignificant in today's climate where one in three marriages break up and one in seven families have only one parent?

On what scale of values was Lord Carrington respected for "doing the honourable thing" over a national disgrace of which he was not the personal cause, and Cecil Parkinson's services are now so insistently retained?

If it is true that "he who is trustworthy in little is trustworthy also in much", then has not a democratic nation the right to expect its leaders to possess, among other qualifications for high public office, the moral attribute of personal integrity?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD JAMES,
Bedford College of Higher Education,
Polhill Avenue,
Bedford,
October 6.

From Sir John Herbecq
Sir, I have no wish to comment on the Parkinson affair, but your comment (leading article, October 7) that "We all know too well that love, or loyalty, or even of sin that is supposed to be original and in us all, reveals such startling defects of character as to make him less fit to serve the rest of us now than he was when we did not know."

Despite the lamentable increase in split homes and the rest, those who have brought about this state of affairs remain a small minority in this land and there is no reason why their conduct should be held to have established a new norm in morality acceptable to a public at large who have no right to expect anything better in their leaders.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HERBECCO,
Maryland Lodges Meadow,
Cockfield,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex,
October 7.

Opera's plight

From the Managing Director, English National Opera
Sir, Reports in *The Times* and other newspapers about the Priestley study of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company raise some crucial issues in the area of arts funding.

My regret is that the Priestley report discussed only two of the national companies with the resulting implication (in various newspaper articles) that the financial position of English National Opera is in some way more secure.

The plight of the English National Opera is every bit as serious as that of the Royal Opera House or the Royal Shakespeare Company. English National Opera has, perhaps mistakenly, chosen to remain relatively silent about its problems while continuing to mount what we hope are enterprising seasons - but

we must now stress that this has been against a background of Arts Council funding which has been progressively reduced, compared with the Royal Opera House, over the last fifteen years.

Even the generous support we receive from the GLC does not restore the balance.

Without relating a great catalogue of woe, may I, through your columns, set the record straight. The English National Opera is just as underfunded as the Royal Opera House and deserves, we hope, just as much consideration in all funding discussions - but I should personally be less than enthusiastic if the cost of this resulted in any system of direct funding.

Yours faithfully,
HAREWOOD, Managing Director,
English National Opera,
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2,
October 6.

Rugby line-up

From Mr David Heald
Sir, Mr John Payne's justified indignation (September 27) at the all too selective distribution of international tickets by the Rugby Football Union will hardly be assuaged by Mr David Gabbatt's somewhat glib reply (October 1).

As an ageing, overweight former extra A player and a life member of a well-known rugby club, I am still not always able to procure tickets for internationals at Twickenham.

The evident assumption that only rugby club members are interested in rugby is patronizing. In no other sport is this "tickets for the boys only" policy practised. Only the touts can benefit from it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HEALD,
Darwin College,
The University of Kent,
Canterbury, Kent,
October 4.

Hospital cuts

From Mr J. C. Reynolds
Sir, Your leader "No time to tinker" (September 26) suggests that criticism of Mr Fowler's 1 per cent cut in the health service budget are to be dismissed as "trigger-happy hysteria", though anyone who has been watching "television news" programmes knows that doctors and nurses - not given to hysteria - think otherwise.

You are, Sir, correct, of course, in saying that Mrs Thatcher fell into a trap of her own making when she said, before the election, "the health service is safe with the Conservative Government". She should have said "the health service will be dismantled gradually by the Conservative Government when we return to power".

Most people agree that we must reduce public expenditure, but why do ministers look first for cuts in the health service and education?

May I suggest that substantial savings could be made by (1) reducing our contribution to Nato to the level of that provided by other impoverished countries, such as Italy; (2) abandoning Trident and Fortress Falklands, neither of which we can afford; (3) abandoning farming subsidies, which result in unmarketable food surpluses; and (4) abandoning plans for abolishing the GLC and the metropolitan counties, which you yourself have

Deficit financing to aid recovery

From Mr Bryan Gould, MP for Dagenham (Labour)

Sir, In your even-handed comment on Neil Kinnock's Brighton speech (leading article, October 7), you warn against ignoring "the damage done to competitive production by eroding money values as a result of over-borrowing by the Government".

This is an odd warning to give at a time when the Americans are busy showing us the immense benefits to be gained from deficit financing. By following Keynesian prescriptions in this regard, the Americans are raising output and cutting unemployment without running into inflationary problems. Their experience demonstrates that expansion needs financing and that inflation can safely be undertaken when there is a substantial margin of spare capacity.

In this country, we have so far taken only a few faltering steps along that path. Yet, in the 15 months to March 31, 1983, our Government happily presided over a £24.6bn increase in bank lending to the private sector. The consequences were not the erosion of money values you warn against, but lower interest rates, lower inflation and, a modest economic recovery.

Surely the evidence is that we need more of the same, so, why leave it to the private sector? Over the same 15-month period, the Government took £2.4bn out of the economy, thereby pulling against the direction so enthusiastically taken by the private sector.

If only the Government were prepared to do its bit, by underfunding (so that there was no upward pressure on interest rates), we might yet get a really effective American-style stimulus, without which our pitiful "recovery" is doomed to peter out.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN GOULD (Chairman,
Labour Economic Policy Group),
House of Commons,
October 10.

Inner-city churches

From the Reverend Prebendary R. A. Cogan
Sir, I have much sympathy with Mr C. Hammond's plea (October 4) for inner-city churches which provide "a setting within which the liturgy can be enacted most expressively and fulfilled most completely" and I share his concern about the liturgical and architectural merit of modern churches and the replacement "worship centres".

However, it must be said that the inner areas of our great cities have simply too many churches. The great majority were built between 1850 and 1900, often at the whim of individual priests or donors who could not have foreseen the social and economic facts of the 1980s.

In the London Borough of Camden there are 32 Anglican parish churches, serving a population which has halved since most of those churches were built. Many Christians would find it hard to justify the retention of all these churches and, leaving aside questions of staffing and other pastoral considerations, the Church can no longer provide adequate finance for their proper upkeep.

If all the inner-city churches are to be kept, even as architectural "signs", then substantial financial resources must be found from non-Church sources.

We do appreciate the love and self-sacrifice of small devoted congregations, but should the upkeep of buildings be the first call on their efforts? I have personal experience of a parochial church council which, after years of unequal struggle, voted unanimously to have their church declared redundant.

That congregation is now part of a living Christian community worshipping in another building. They have gained by their courageous decision. Redundancy and demolition can lead to growth in the church of the inner city.

Yours faithfully,
R. COOGAN,
Vicar and Area Dean,
The Parish Church of All Hallows,
Hamstead, Hampstead,
27 Thurlow Road, NW3,
October 5.

Grave thought

From Mr G. W. Thomas
Sir, Some time ago a notice outside an Edinburgh park which said, "downputting of uplifted children," led me to assume an enlightened Scottish attitude to the problems of youth. My view was modified by a longer acquaintance with the area, but now that I am approaching an age which engenders contemplation of the hereafter I am encouraged to find an unequivocal statement of policy on a notice in the cemetery of Rosslyn Chapel (Borders region) which says: "No children allowed into this burial ground unless accompanied by parents or guardians".

Yours faithfully,
G. W. THOMAS,
Low Bield,
Outgate,
Ambleside,
Cumbria,
September 29.

Bar to progress?

From Mr Michael O'Neil
Sir, Even in this centre of excellence the Fellows' car park at St Catharine's College bears a notice reading: "These gates may be closed at any time and unauthorised cars removed" - over the enclosing 12ft walls, presumably.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL O'NEIL,
1 Lammas Field,
Cambridge,
October 4.



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
October 11: Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Lady Elizabeth Basset as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 11: Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Multiple Sclerosis Society was present this evening at a Reception to mark the Society's thirtieth year, at Vintners' Hall, London.

THE DUKES OF GLOUCESTER
The Duke of Gloucester as Patron, Richard III Society this evening visiting Crosby Hall, London SW3. His Royal Highness unveiled a Memorial commemorating King Richard III's connection with the Hall and later attended the Quincentenary Lecture "Richard III and London".

THE DUKES OF GLOUCESTER
The Duke of Gloucester was present this afternoon at the twenty-fifth Anniversary of Jack and Jill Club, South Croydon, Surrey.

THE DUKES OF GLOUCESTER
Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

THE DUKES OF GLOUCESTER
The Duke of Kent this afternoon received His Excellency Mr Taher Masi (Ambassador from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan).

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Closely observed flowers at the opening of the RHS's Great Autumn Show yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Magnificent RHS show survives the cold

By Janet Browne, Horticulture Correspondent

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S Great Autumn Show in the old and new Westminster halls is magnificent. Although held later in the year than usual, because of the renovation of the new hall, this year's show has brought less autumn colour than expected. Perhaps because of that there is an unusually wide range of interesting plants on display, from garden plants, bonsai trees, rock garden and alpine subjects, roses, double chrysanthemums, grey foliage plants and succulents, to many trees and shrubs. The judges awarded eight gold medals to exhibits of special merit. The three dahlia exhibitors staged superb gold medal displays. In spite of picking blooms in the rain, little or no weather-damage is apparent. Aylett Nurseries, of Aylesbury, has about 85 varieties, varying from collarettes to pompons and large giants, excellently displayed. Four of which are particularly eye-catching are "Happy Birthday", a lovely peach colour, "Autumn Lustre", reddish orange, which is a superb variety for any garden, "Pink Shirley Alliance", a soft pink good for exhibition, and a lovely white giant "White Albatross". Equally good are the dahlias shown by Butterfield's Nurseries, of Upper Bourne End. This firm has more than 60 varieties ranging from the very popular "babies" to the plants. Looking particularly attractive on this gold medal winning stand are the new collection "Jane Horvath", creamy pink and named after the watercolour artist. "Porcelain", a delicate lilac and white, and the controversial "Christopher Taylor", a superb brilliant-red which has peony-like flowers but is classed as a water-lily type. The third dahlia winner is Philip Tivey and Sons, of Leicester. Beautifully staged bowls contain some lovely varieties, including "Dark Splendour", a wonderful crimson-bronze cactus, "Janet Goddard", an unusual terracotta colour, "Meiro", bluish lavender, "Jacqueline Tivey", blushing-pink with a purple flush, and "Wooden Carol", white, tipped rose-pink, all small decorative. The Great Autumn Show would not be complete without a superb display of flowering and foliage house plants from Thomas Rochford and Sons, of Broxbourne. This year, the firm is showing some wonderful plant *Impatiens hawkeri* varieties, with large flowers of different colours and with brilliantly variegated foliage. Of great interest also are the cold-tolerant "Endurance" saintpaulias in a good colour range, and the delightful mini-cyclamen which are proving so popular. Two other eye-catching plants are *Begonia rex*, the shrimp plant, in full flower, and *Leucococcus*, with orange flowers. A worthy gold medal winner. Although with a smaller exhibit than Rochford's, the first-time showing by Annure Exotics, of Hornsea, Hampshire, also well deserves its gold medal for an impeccable display of house and greenhouse plants. Some unusual plants include *Alocasia amazonica*, with large veined leaves, *Spathiphyllum* "Mauna Loa", white "flowers", a very golden yellow-leaved *Codiaeum variegatum*, and *Srommanthe sanguinea*, with deep red lower leaf surfaces. Venetian Airplants, of Ashington, Sussex, concentrates on plants without soil and merely need misting with water, to win its gold medal. The plants, mainly bromeliads, are decoratively displayed on weathered wooden stands. *Aechmea fasciata* "Purpurea", pink flowers, the unusual *Catopsis morreniana*, green and white flower spikes, *Strelitzia reginae*, red and yellow, and *Neoregelia* species with white flowers and pink-tipped leaves. Among the tree and shrub exhibits, those staged by Hillier Nurseries, of Romsey, and Nourse Nurseries, of Woodbridge, won gold medals. Hillier's staged a wide collection of trees and shrubs devoted to autumn colour in flower, fruit or leaf. Creating interest are two

OBITUARY

DR KURT DEBUS

Notable contribution to rocketry

Dr Kurt Debus who died in Florida on October 9 aged 74, was a German-born engineer who played a notable role in the development of rocketry. He had been Werner von Braun's chief engineer at Peenemünde during the war and later went, like his old chief, to the United States where he was in charge of launchings at what subsequently became the Kennedy Space Centre for over twenty years. Kurt Heinrich Debus was born in Frankfurt in 1908 and educated at the Technical University at Darmstadt. Besides an education and a PhD in electrical engineering one of his colourful acquisitions from this period was the social duelling scar he received as a byproduct of his membership of a duelling fraternity, a mark he was to carry for the remainder of his life. As an assistant professor at Darmstadt, Debus was assigned to Peenemünde when research on missiles began there and under von Braun was chief engineer in charge of all the test firings on the V2 programme. On one occasion he narrowly escaped death when one of these missiles, fully armed, plummeted to earth soon after launching. Debus flung himself into a nearby foxhole as the V2 and its warhead impacted and exploded not many yards from him. At the end of the war Debus was among the large haul of German rocket scientists, acquired by the United States and was soon active in the American military rocket tests which were to develop into the space race. These began with the series of V2 firings at White Sands between 1946 and 1948, which owed much to America's having obtained components for almost 100 complete launch vehicles from the underground V2 factory at Niedersachswerfen. Debus then worked on the Redstone Ballistic Programme, supervising the test firings of successive generations of army missiles and in 1952 became director of operations at Cape Canaveral. Here he was in charge of the launchings of a succession of celebrated missiles, which paved the way to space flight for the United States, beginning with the Army's Jupiter-C which belatedly put America's first satellite into orbit in March 1958 after the disasters of the Navy's Vanguard programme. He directed the launchings of the first probe to the sun, the first flights of primates and the first suborbital space flight of an American, Alan Shepard, in 1961. As, by then, head of the John F. Kennedy Space Centre he was in overall control of the launch of Apollo II which landed the first human beings on the moon in 1969. One of his last responsibilities was the launch of Skylab, in 1973, and he retired the following year. In 1976, however he joined the West German firm OTRAG which was developing a low cost vehicle to launch commercial satellites, finally retiring to Cocoa Beach, Florida, within sight of the launchings at Cape Canaveral.

SIR BRYAN SHARWOOD-SMITH

Sir Bryan Sharwood-Smith, KCMG, KCOVO, KBE, who died on October 10 at the age of 84, spent the greater part of his working life in West Africa, and ended his time there as Governor of Northern Nigeria from 1954 to 1957. He was born on January 5, 1899, and educated at Aldenham School. He won a scholarship to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1916, but joined the Royal Flying Corps the following year and served in France, Germany and the North West Frontier. After a short period as assistant master at St Cuthbert's preparatory school in Malvern he entered the colonial administrative service in 1920. The first seven years, from 1920 to 1927, he spent in the British Cameroons (now part of the Republic of Cameroon). There he was involved in the direct rule of pagan tribes, primitive and often dangerous, and in his later account *But Always as Friends* published in 1969 he described his travels among them with "a police escort of one n.c.o. and three constables". While in the Cameroons he learnt both Hausa and Fulani, languages spoken in Northern Nigeria, and in 1927 he applied for and was given a transfer there. His experience in the Cameroons was of some use when it came to dealing with non-Muslim tribes in Northern Nigeria, but much of that region came under indirect rule, the system introduced by Lugard which made use of the native administrations. The objective of British policy was to use the experience of the Fulani rulers, but to "modernize and adapt" their practices, not least by checking their tendency to corruption and oppression of the peasantry. Sharwood-Smith, who remained in the region for 30 years, was one of those who made a considerable contribution to the achievement of this aim. In 1952 he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Northern House of Chiefs, the highest colonial rank in the region. In 1954 he and the Lieutenant-governors in charge of the other Nigerian regions were raised to the rank of Governor in recognition of the size and importance of the areas they ruled. Sharwood-Smith was a devoted colonial official who was on friendly terms with many of the leading personalities in Northern Nigeria, and had much affection for them. One of them was Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, later Prime Minister of Nigeria, who wrote to him in 1957 "as a son to a father" asking whether he should accept the office. Sharwood-Smith retired in 1957 and returned to Britain. But he retained his interest in Northern Nigeria and in *But Always as Friends* described his experiences there, as well as outlining Nigeria's problems. He described, for instance, the hostility between north and south, and the events which led to the secession of Biafra and the civil war. Sharwood-Smith was married twice, first in 1926, and secondly in 1939 to Winifred Joan Mitchell. There was a daughter from the first marriage and two sons and a daughter from the second.

MR HENRY ELLIOTT-BLAKE

Children in Tite Street, the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, the Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton and Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. He was also Senior Surgeon to the "Royal Free" Hospital at Roehampton and Stoke Mandeville. The British Association of Plastic Surgeons was started in 1946 by a small group of surgeons who had been dedicated to reconstructive surgery in war casualties. As a founder member of this association, he was active in promoting the expansion of this branch of surgery, both nationally and internationally. He also served as president of the Plastic Surgery Section of the Royal Society of Medicine. In his retirement, he continued his interest and support in the work of the association. Henry Elliott-Blake was a most gifted painter. His work was exhibited at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the Royal Academy of Arts, and he was a founder member of the Medical Art Society. It was, perhaps, this gift which guided him towards plastic surgery and made the welfare of his patients and the quality of their lives so important to him. He was the most meticulous and patient of men, who will long be remembered for his kindness and consideration to all who met him. These qualities earned him the lasting admiration and affection of all those who worked under him. His sense of humour and his wide range of interests, including cricket, sailing at Dorney Park in the early years, and his very considerable knowledge of art, made him a most stimulating and delightful companion. He will be greatly missed by his many friends. He is survived by his wife Mary, whom he married in 1945.

CAPTAIN MARCOS LEMOS

with Julio Mariner, for which he had given 40,000 guineas. Other good horses he owned were Cayo Doro, which finished a close second to Morstan in the 1973 Derby and his home-bred Averof, which won the Dec Stakes at Chester and the St James's Palace Stakes at Ascot. Meanwhile he bought Warren Hill House at Newmarket, spending a considerable sum on its renovation while building the nearby Warren Hill stud. A few years later he also bought the nearby Ashley Heath Stud, making it a home for stallions and visiting mares. One of the stallions standing there is Good Times, winner of the Italian 2,000 Guineas. Lemos more recently purchased the Fitzroy Yard in Newmarket, which is currently leased to Frankie Durr, the former jockey turned trainer. He had hopes of turning it into one of the finest yards in the country. In 1978 he won the St Leger

MISS JOAN HACKETT

Miss Joan Hackett, the American film and stage actress, died in hospital in Los Angeles on October 8 at the age of 49. She had been suffering from cancer for some time. Born in New York, Miss Hackett made her stage debut on Broadway in *Grease* in the *Woods* and appeared in a number of other stage productions including *Laurette* and *She Didn't Say Yes*. Her film debut was in *The Group* (1966) and thereafter she established herself as a leading lady, often seen in unglamorous roles of the sort typified by her moving portrayal of an aging and self-obsessed socialite in the film version of the Neil Simon comedy *Only When I Laugh*, which gained her a Golden Globe Award and an Oscar nomination last year. Other film credits included *Support Your Local Sheriff* (1969) and *The Last of Sheila*

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. D. Briggs and Miss M. M. Leif, Lasky

The engagement is announced between Thomas David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tom Briggs, of The Dene, Kirkstow, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, and Mary Michelle, eldest daughter of Sir Denis and Lady Lasky, of Loders Mill, Bridport, Dorset.

Mr J. M. Brand and Miss K. J. Whidayer

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J. Brand, of Edinburg, and Kyle Jane, daughter of Sir Brian and Lady Whidayer, of Oxford.

Mr C. R. S. Hardie and Miss M. A. Hodgson

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs M. S. Hardie, of Wimbledon, and Mary-Anne (Emma), eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. G. Hodgson, of Treas, Isles of Scilly.

Mr R. L. Kinross and Miss E. S. Davies

The engagement is announced between Robin Anthony, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. L. Kinross, of Colinton, Edinburgh, and Marie Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs I. Macdonald.

Mr O. J. W. Lane and Miss J. M. Murray

The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Lane, of Burton, Lincoln, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. G. Murray, of Waterloo, Liverpool.

Mr G. R. Richards and Miss J. M. Welch

The engagement is announced between Gary, son of Mr and Mrs John Richards, of Cranbury, and Janet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lorne Welch, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr N. D. Allen and Miss A. L. E. Rice

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of the late Brigadier David Allen, and of Mrs Shirley Williams, of Heathfield, Liphook, Hampshire, and Annie, elder daughter of Mr John H. Rice, of 35 Riverline, Maidenhead, and of Mrs Penny Ferris, of Little Heath, Liphook, Hampshire, Surrey.

Mr A. E. J. Van der Steen and Miss R. L. E. McMillan-Scott

The engagement is announced between Allen, only son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Van der Steen, of Berwickshire, Alton, Hampshire, and Rachel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T. R. McMillan-Scott, of Sicklepath, Okehampton, Devon.

Mr T. W. M. Jones and Miss S. C. Agnew

The marriage took place on October 7th between Tom Jones and Miss Sally Agnew, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Jones, of Agnew, Crowthorne, Surrey.

Mr H. B. B. Clowes and Miss E. L. Martyn

The marriage took place on Saturday, October 8, at St Mary's Church, Brixton, between Mr Benjamin Clowes, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Clowes, and Miss Emma Martyn, younger daughter of the late Major Alan Martyn, Mrs Tony West, The Rev Robert Miles officiated.

Mr N. Pilkington and Miss C. Bonser

A service was held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel after the marriage of Mr Nigel Pilkington, youngest son of Mr T. D. Pilkington, and Mrs V. M. Pilkington, and Miss Celia Bonser, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bonser.

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In March Bob Hawke, the ebullient former Rhodes scholar and trade union leader, led the Labour Party to a landslide victory in the general elections. Tony Duboudin writes from Melbourne on the performance of the new government.

Seven months into its term, the new Australian Labour government, the first since Mr Gough Whitlam's administration, has avoided the mistakes, turmoil and shoot-from-the-hip style that characterized the Whitlam years.

There has not been the flurry of legislation, initiatives and pronouncements which marked the last Labour term. While the watchword in Canberra now is evolution rather than revolution, the difference between the last Labour government and Mr Bob Hawke's administration is also a matter of style.

The Prime Minister's team has made some *faux pas* — the "spy" flight over Tasmania at the time of the Franklin dam row and the dispute with the chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (as it then was) come to mind — but none of them was allowed to develop into a major issue. Mr Hawke acted rapidly and effectively to dampen any possible trouble.

The most significant matter, which has marred an otherwise fine record, has been the Coombe-Ivanov affair, and there too Mr Hawke acted rapidly and ruthlessly in seeking, and obtaining, the resignation of Mr Mick Young, the Special Minister for State, and a close personal confidant. By that action the Prime Minister made it clear that he was not going to allow the actions of an individual to embarrass his government, something which happened all too often under Mr Whitlam.

The Royal Commission, established by Mr Hawke to look into the affair and Mr David Coombe's relationship with Mr Valery Ivanov, a Soviet diplomat, has proved an

embarrassment for the Government. With hindsight Mr Hawke probably wished that he had not set it up. However, it did prove that the Prime Minister was not going to show any favours to colleagues.

Mr Young was alleged to have tipped off a Canberra lobby correspondent that a Russian diplomat was about to be expelled.

Mr Hawke has created a Hawke government first and secondly, and some say almost incidentally, a Labour government. While this style of leadership has not won him any friends among Labour Party ideologists, it has certainly gained the confidence of business and investors.

Sometimes it is hard to grasp that there has been a change of party in Canberra. One newspaper columnist described Mr Hawke as more of a conserva-

tive than Mr Malcolm Fraser, the former Prime Minister.

Despite this conservative approach, the Labour government has managed to retain the confidence and, more importantly, the support of the union movement, although there are signs that the honeymoon may be drawing to a close. The social contract with the unions and employers, thrashed out at the national economic summit held in Canberra in April, has largely held good despite runarounds from left-wing unions.

However, the most important test of the accord will be whether the more extreme unions will be happy with the 4.3 per cent national wage decision granted by the Arbitration Commission. Should they consider it inadequate, the Prime Minister can look forward to a stormy few months. Its ability to hold wage

demands at reasonable levels will almost certainly be the issue upon which this Labour government will be judged. It is also essential if it is to have any chance of fulfilling its election pledge of creating 500,000 new jobs during its three-year term.

Encouraging hi-tech industries

So far there are few signs that Labour will be any more able to reduce unemployment than its predecessors. There was an imperceptible drop in the number of jobless in the most recent quarterly figures but hardly anything to warrant rejoicing.

Unemployment is unlikely to improve until the world economy picks up and then not

necessarily significantly. Australia, in common with similar industrialized nations, faces the problem of aging, inefficient industries. The problem is compounded in Australia's case by its being a country with a high-wage structure in the midst of a low-wage cost region.

Any wage explosion, as well as jeopardizing Labour's economic recovery programme, will rekindle memories of the last Labour government and the runaway inflation of the Whitlam era. That, more than any other single point, gave Mr Malcolm Fraser his biggest stick against Labour.

This fear of precipitating another inflationary spiral has undoubtedly influenced Mr Hawke's approach. Under Mr Whitlam, inflation reached more than 17 per cent, fired by a free-spending public programme.

The government, also aware of Australia's industrial shortcomings, has taken a number of initiatives to encourage the high technology sector with generous tax concessions for investors in high-risk industries. However, in some areas, particularly computers and related products, Mr Barry Jones, the Minister for Science and Technology, believes that it is already too late for Australia. He says the country has "missed the boat".

Mine and farm are big export earners

While long-term prospects lie in new industries, mining and agriculture will remain Australia's major earners of export income.

Mr Hawke faces opposition from within the Labour Party and from the unions over uranium mining and the government's attitude to Indonesia over East Timor.

The party's policy on uranium, agreed to after extremely tortuous negotiations, in which Mr Hawke played a leading role, is that existing mines should be allowed to fulfil contracts entered into but that no new contracts should be signed or new mines started, except where uranium exists with other minerals. Ultimately the policy commits Labour to phase out the industry.

Mr Hawke has now said that he feels existing mines should be allowed to negotiate new overseas contracts to enable them to dispose of their production. This is a liberal interpretation of the letter of the party policy, if not the spirit.

Mr Hawke further angered the anti-uranium lobby by criticizing the demonstrators who blockaded the Roxby Downs mine in South Australia in August. Speaking in Tasmania he said: "You see some of the same faces there as were here (protesting against the Franklin dam in Tasmania)." The phrase was reminiscent of a more conservative government.

The Prime Minister has already received two warnings from the party and its backers on the uranium question. The Victoria branch of the party warned the government not to water down its policy and the Australian Council of Trade Unions also told the government not to soften its line. Mr Hawke has, apparently, ignored both warnings.

On foreign policy Mr Hawke has ignored party policy on the East Timor question and has accepted as fact Indonesia's takeover of the former Portuguese colony, again angering both wings of the party. The East Timor issue is one that soured Australia's relations with its nearest and largest neighbour, particularly because of the five newsmen killed by Indonesian troops during fighting following the Djakarta takeover.

Captivated by the Queen Mother

Mr Hawke again attracted some criticism, although of a milder nature, when he went to London and was seen by Australian television viewers to be captivated by the Queen Mother. The obvious pleasure he showed in her company did not quite fit in with his previously stated republican views.

Mr Hawke has been described as representing a new breed of politician. That may be true, but the problems he faces are not new; they are similar to ones faced by virtually every leader in the Western world. It remains to be seen whether he can provide the leadership and new direction that Australia seeks to lift it out of the depression.

It is unlikely that any recent Australian political leader has come to power with such high hopes. The size of the task Mr Hawke has shouldered is enormous and is likely to be matched only by the disappointment among his followers should he fail.

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Australia



While the Australian economy struggles to get off the ground, Sydney's skyline continues to soar

Nobby Clark

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AUSTRALIA

Foreign policy is, more than any other, the area in which the young Hawke government has made its mark, although in a manner distressingly pragmatic to many Labour purists. Though both Bill Hayden, the foreign minister, and Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, are keen to trumpet their interest in human rights questions, their attitude has been tempered by national self-interest. Concern has been expressed about human rights under the regimes of Chile and the Philippines, but the administration has turned a blind eye to the continuing tragedy on Australia's northern doorstep in East Timor.

Sections of the Labour Party continue to worry about the fragmentary reports of a renewed Indonesian military

offensive in East Timor following isolated uprisings by the East Timorese.

Those strange allies, Mr Hayden and Mr Hawke, the man who ousted Mr Hayden from the Labour leadership the day this year's election was announced, have conspired to prevent a major confrontation within the ruling party over the thwarting of Labour policy on East Timor.

In Labour's seven months in office the focus has switched decisively from preoccupation with Australia's alliance with the United States to concern with its role within its own region, most importantly with members of Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations), and with its scattered eastern neighbours in the Pacific.

Australia's ambivalence

towards Indonesia, Asean's most powerful member and Australia's nearest neighbour, is long standing and real. East Timor has been jettisoned by the Labour leadership in order to cement relations with Jakarta.

Under the previous Liberal (conservative) government, Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, took firm personal control of foreign policy. He spread Australian influence thin internationally and lost ground with its Asian neighbours.

Foreign policy is one of the few areas on which Mr Hawke

has not imposed his personal stamp. Had he done so, the Labour Government's foreign policy would have been little different from that of the previous administration - internationalist, sympathetic to the US, fiercely anti-Soviet.

Mr Hayden, having lost his party's leadership to Mr Hawke, has refused to cede control of foreign policy. He is one of the few ministers who have asserted themselves over Mr Hawke; Australia's switch of emphasis from the US to Asia reflects this.

Mr Hayden spent the first

FOREIGN POLICY

Turning a blind eye to tragedy

months of government out of the public eye, nursing his wounds and listening to his department's advice. He emerged to announce that improved relations with Asia were his main goal and promptly flew off to meet President Suharto of Indonesia. This was followed by trips to other Asean members and to Vietnam.

In seeking to persuade Asian leaders that the government saw Australia's future in Asia, Mr Hayden faced two obstacles in Labour Party policy, which is theoretically binding on a Labour Government. The first was support for East Timorese self-determination, a stance fiercely resented by Indonesia, and regarded with suspicion by other Asean states. The other obstacle was a commitment to provide aid to Vietnam. This, too, was resented by Asean members, for whom Vietnam's presence in Cambodia is an important policy concern.

Mr Hayden and Mr Hawke have simply ignored Timor, professed their desire for improved relations with Indonesia

and avoided a confrontation in the Labour Party over the issue by the recent fortuitous UN decision not to debate East Timor this year.

On Vietnam, the government has similarly avoided both implementing policy and internal manoeuvre by the grandiose expedient of offering to mediate between Asean, Vietnam and China over Cambodia.

Though there is little likelihood of this offer being taken up, it enables the government to refuse to implement party policy, which is of great symbolic importance to the Labour left wing because of its strong opposition to Australian participation in the Vietnam war, while the mediation proposal is on the table.

On these two issues as much as any other the maturity and pragmatism, but the loss of idealism, of the Hawke Government are apparent. Its attitude stands in contrast to that of the previous Labour administration under Gough Whitlam, which fell from power in 1975.

Mr Hawke made talks with President Reagan the highlight

of his first overseas trip, delivered an unqualified endorsement of continued close relations between the two countries and, to the surprise of many Australians, was warmly applauded by US policies in that turbulent region, in which Australia has no direct interest.

While Mr Hawke reassured the conservative Australian electorate that little had changed since the passing of the Liberal government, Mr Hayden persuaded the administration to agree to a joint statement spelling out each country's role and responsibilities under Asean (Australia/New Zealand/US alliance).

As Mr Hayden sees it, the alliance remains important but Australia must develop greater self-reliance in foreign policy and defence strategy and procurement. The new policy has received general endorsement from the Liberal Opposition yet leaves the present government scope to move closer to Asia.

To emphasize the shift in Australian priorities, Mr Hayden concluded his announcement in September with the footnote that though Asean was important, relations with Asean were more important.

Relations with Britain show little sign of changing under

Labour. Mr Hawke knows that republicanism is electorally unpopular and will not push the issue. The main concern of Australia's policy-makers focuses on trade relations with Britain as filtered through the European Community. Tension over agricultural trade has diminished with the change in government but there is potential for conflict over Labour's unresolved policy to ban uranium exports to France.

On South Africa, the Labour government has surprisingly softened its conservative predecessor's bans on sporting contacts in what can only be described as an opportunistic concession to Australia's objection with sport.

Disarmament has not been an important public issue in Australia. The debate has been confined to specialists and a small peace movement, but Mr Hayden has tentatively raised the issue in the hope of initiating a public debate and has appointed a special disarmament ambassador. He has also proposed a Pacific nuclear-free zone (which would nevertheless permit US nuclear vessels to cross the Pacific) and a government-funded peace institute.

Ian Davis
The Age

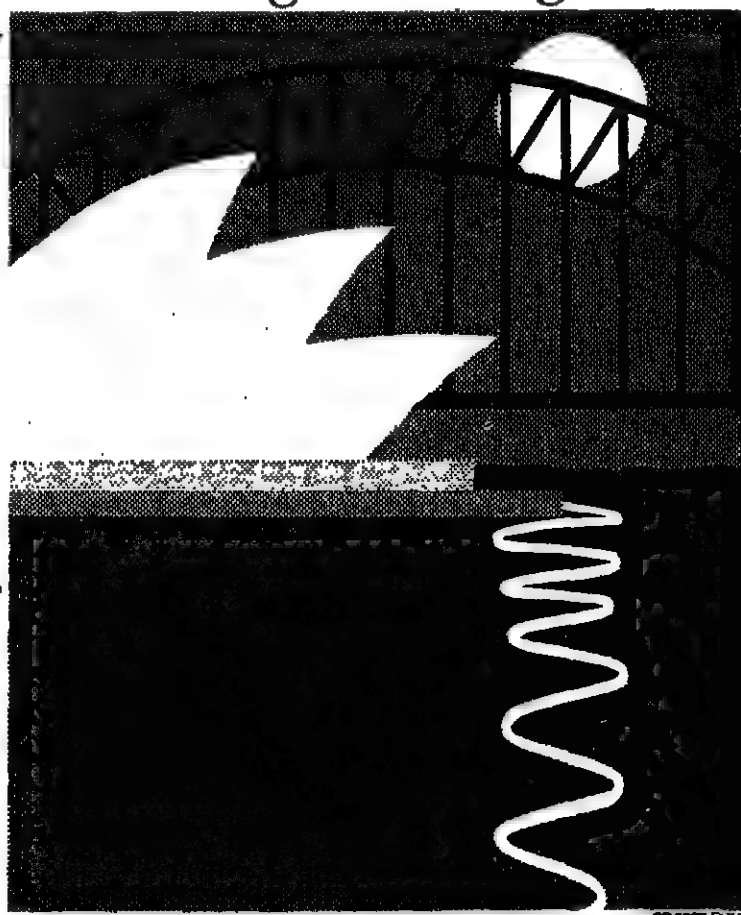
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FOREIGN INVESTMENT

New realism to conquer old fears?

The Hawke government had to address itself to the issue of foreign investment only three days after its resounding victory at the polls. In the run-up to the March 5 election more than \$A3,000m (£1,818m) had fled the country, and on March 8 the government was forced to devalue the Australian dollar by 10 per cent to restore some sanity to the domestic money market and stability to Australia's capital account.

The Australian Labour Party is profoundly distrustful of foreign capital. Xenophobia partly explains it. Perhaps more to the point, however, is the fear of being controlled by outside forces, of having control and sovereignty diminished by an interest incompatible with Australia's perceived national interest.

It was these concerns which led the Whitlam government (1972-1975) to seek billions of petrodollars, not through its fiscal agent of long standing (Morgan Stanley), but via Tirth Khemlani, who was indicted by a federal grand jury in New York for conspiracy in 1980.

However, Bob Hawke, the new Prime Minister, and Paul Keating, the Treasurer, do not share their party's more extreme views on foreign capital and foreign investment in Australia. During visits to New York and Washington since their election, both have taken pains to reassure foreign bankers and investors that Australia welcomes foreign investment.

Mr Keating, while shadow Treasurer, met several foreign bankers resident in Australia, partly to disabuse them of any latent concerns over a Labour government, partly to listen to their views.

Although Mr Keating has made a number of controversial

decisions on foreign investment, his mind has been elsewhere. On being elected, the government faced heavy budgetary problems and its Treasurer, while a politician of formidable acumen, was unschooled in economics. He had a budget to present only five months after his appointment.

In July last year the Labour Party held its biennial federal conference. This conference is the supreme policy-making organ of the party, and what it decides is meant, at least in theory, to be binding on a federal Labour government. The latitude which the government has in the timing of the introduction of the party's policy.

The Labour Party's policy on foreign investment says, *inter alia*, that a Labour government will "maintain the existing restrictions on foreign entry to strategic sectors of the economy, including banking, and reverse the current trend towards increased foreign domination of the Australian economy, by seeking increased Australian ownership and control of resources and enterprises and by carefully regulating foreign investment and short-term financial flows". It will also "expand the functions of the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and establish clear guidelines for the entry and expansion of foreign enterprises in Australia, by taking steps to require majority Australian participation in new projects in all sectors, including by public equity, for example, through the Resource Development Fund".

The policy also seeks to preserve key, yet unspecified, sectors of the Australian economy for sole Australian ownership, control the level of borrowing in the domestic capital market by foreign companies, but encourage foreign capital through overseas and offshore borrowing, rather than in the form of equity.

Mr Keating has instructed his department to review Australia's

foreign investment policy in the light of the above. The review, was intended to be completed by the end of September, but it has not yet appeared.

Since the election the government has administered a policy drawn up by its predecessors, which speaks in vague and general terms of "broad economic benefit" a term that has been subject to much lofty exegesis. While Canberra's bureaucrats maintain that there has been no policy change under Mr Keating, there has, in fact, been a substantial change in the interpretation of the policy.

Whether that change has come from Mr Keating himself or the bureaucrats who advise him, is a moot point. One senior adviser concerned over this development said: "FIRB's attitude to the handling of applications has become much tougher. Their reports are much tougher and so are their recommendations. For the most part they have been accepted by the Treasurer".

Under this new look FIRB, every application is regarded as *de novo*; past decisions now appear to carry little weight at all. This is especially so when it comes to changes of ownership in the financial sector. To an incredulous financial community, Mr Keating refused a deal whereby the American Citicorp would sell 49.9 per cent of a large merchant bank and discount house, Citicredit, to Australia's second biggest life assurance company, National Mutual T-and-G Life. In return, Citicorp would buy Grindlays Australia, a wholly-owned offshoot of Grindlays Bank. Citicorp was selling 49.9 per cent of a company with assets of \$A420.1m to acquire a company with assets of \$A107.7m. Mr Keating could not see a net economic benefit in the transaction.

He has also refused foreign acquisitions in manufacturing, Australia's giant farming, trade and financial house, Elders DCL, was not permitted to sell

its edible foods division to Unilever Australia because of the increased foreign control of the edible oils industry, particularly retail margarine, which would follow. Likewise, a takeover of the Australian sweet manufacturer, Allen's Confectionery, by Cadbury Schweppes Australia and a local private company, Nelson Australia, was refused on the grounds that Cadbury Schweppes already had a majority position in the domestic non-chocolate sector of the confectionery industry.

When the present government assumed power, its precursor had already called for applications from "about 10" new banking licences. Towards the end of May, Mr Keating issued a statement rescinding the previous government's offer and announcing a new mini-inquiry to review the Campbell Committee's recommendations on the financial system in the light of the new government's "economic and social objectives". This committee, dubbed the Martin Committee, after its chairman, Vic Martin, a senior Australian banker, is due to report to the Treasurer by late next month.

The consensus among advisers suggests that only four or five foreign banks will be admitted. This would imply one bank each from Britain, the United States and Japan and, perhaps, two from continental Europe. There seems little chance that foreigners will be allowed to own more than 50 per cent of any new bank.

Foreign investment policy in Australia is in transition. Two reviews are underway; each will be addressed to a government wedded to the notion that the economic system can, and should, be used for its social objectives. This, laced with pragmatism, will guide policy in Mr Hawke's first term.

Simon Holberton
The Age

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AUSTRALIA

ECONOMY

Luck fails the Lucky Country

Three or four years ago the Australian economy was managed with admirable conservatism by Malcolm Fraser, whose views coincided with those of John Stone, permanent head of the Treasury. The inflation rate was well below the average of that for members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and, when oil prices jumped, Australia, with its stability and energy riches, became the darling of the world financial community.

However, that was mostly a chimera. Oil prices fell and drought struck the rural areas. That could not be helped. But Australia has also had a burst of economic mismanagement and union bloody-mindedness unmatched since the Whitlam-Cairns era of 1973-75.

The outcome was inflation now running at double the OECD rate, a federal budget deficit of nearly \$A8,400m (£5,000m) or 4.7 per cent of gdp; unemployment at 10.3 per cent and officially forecast to rise in 1983-84; corporate profitability reduced to the lowest post-war level and no rise in private investment or self-sustaining recovery in sight.

Overall, the economy shrank by 2 per cent - Australia's worst annual performance since 1946. In the past two months the economy has ceased to contract, and, with farming reviving strongly, it is heading for moderate growth in 1983-84; official forecasts have edged up to 3.5 per cent.

The growth is largely the result of an 18.5 per cent rise in spending by the Fraser government (6.3 per cent in real dollars) in 1982-83, and projected rise of 15.8 per cent (7.2 per cent real) under Bob Hawke.

Neither Australian leader has faith in such a Keynesian prescription for a sick economy. To a degree, Mr Hawke was locked into a giant deficit this year by Mr Fraser's vote-buying budget 14 months ago. However, the Labour Prime Minister passed over the chance to trim it by a couple of billion dollars.

He argued that an apparently excessive deficit was justifiable because his pre-election agreement with the union movement (further fuelled at the union-government-employer summit talks in May) would hold down wages growth. The agreement involves full indexation of wages to the consumer price index.

Mr Hawke has had one nasty shock already, with the consumer price index 4.3 per cent, or nearly one per cent more than he expected.

The agreement may also be starting to unravel as stronger unions aim at above-indexation rises. But it is too early yet to know whether the breaches so far, such as the SA16 rise spreading through the chemical industry, are the first of many.

Even if the union leaders stick with the agreement - and they are angry with Mr Hawke over his policies on superannuation taxes and tariff barriers - the workers on site take a less lofty view of national requirements. Regardless of unemployment levels, real wage cuts are not part of their vocabulary.

The Australian workforce enjoyed a real wage growth of about 7 per cent in 1980-82, at the expense of corporate profitability, and even the present two years of zero real wage growth leave workers reasonably well off.

Still, things could have been worse. From December 1982 to June 1983, unions went along with a wage pause. Future indexation is likely to be half-yearly rather than quarterly, allowing some restoration of profit share to corporations. An indexation regime, coupled with orthodox fiscal policies, slowly got the economy out of the mire after 1975. But there is no guarantee that even if indexation is adhered to in the next two or three years, the new combination of indexation and mega-deficits will work.

In a review of Australia's five-year economic outlook last month, Lloyds International predicts only a slow recovery to 1985-86, a quick boom and then poor performance to 1988. The forecast appears to take as its premise an inability of the Hawke government to keep control of wage rises. Any failure of the 1983-84 budget strategy, moreover, could cause Labour to adopt worse rather than better strategies.

In the past 12 months interest rates have come down slightly, despite financing of the \$A4,500m deficit. This occurred partly because of falling international rates and partly because of the slump in investment, and hence in corporate sector borrowings - a matter of cold comfort. Indeed, new capital raisings by listed companies in the March quarter were negative - the first time

this has been reported since 1950.

The outlook for interest rates in the coming year is more precarious, especially if the US rates start to rise. As the Treasury noted in the budget papers, sales of government bonds to the non-bank sector in the single year 1982-83 were greater in real terms than total sales to the non-banks during the whole of the 1970s. In 1983-84, the non-banks will have to digest an equivalent offering again.

Financial markets are becoming sceptical of governments' ability to deliver their promises on monetary policy. For five successive years the government has overshot its own targets on monetary growth, hardly conducive to confidence in financial markets. The current target is 9-11 per cent (M3), still disturbingly high. Meanwhile the floor being set under interest rates by government funding needs, makes a recovery of private investment less likely - the normal problem with government-led recoveries.

Corporate gross operating surpluses (profits, before interest and direct tax) fell 17 per cent in real terms in 1982, and after-interest surpluses would have fallen even more sharply. Even after the slight rises in profitability in the past half year, the health of the corporate sector is close to its lowest point on record, the previous nadir being 1974.

In manufacturing, output in 1982-83 tumbled 11 per cent, far exceeding the previous notorious decline of 1974-75. Housing construction sank by 25 per cent, but this has now revived as a result of all the money that the government has thrown at it. The revival of manufacturing is not yet predictable though surveys of levels of confidence are just starting to register an important move.

One survey of the metal and engineering sector a few weeks ago recorded that it had suffered the worst shake-out in 20 years, but with an upturn expected later in 1984. Almost half the respondents were restructuring, but not through investment; they were substituting imported parts, narrowing product lines, and merging with rivals.

British businessmen have been heartened by anti-protectionist comments by Labour government leaders, including

Bill Hayden the foreign minister, who said in September that Australia was "embracing generic industries in a sort of formaldehyde of protection". The Australian British Trade Association says it is of tremendous significance that the government so early in its tenure (and despite the recession) has recognized the need for freer trade.

Statements by Australian governments on freer trade have been two-a-penny for decades, while protective barriers continue to be raised. However, the Hawke government has put its policies where its mouth is in the case of Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), which was given a package of bounties and market-share guarantees, but in exchange for promises of \$A800m investment over five years and specified productivity gains, to which unions have agreed. The target is 250 tonnes per man-year, compared with an indicative 230 tonnes at last June. Further ahead, BHP has its sights on a figure of 280 tonnes, on a par with some Japanese mills.

Inflation is forecast to fall from about 11 per cent to 7.5 per cent on the consumer price index (cpi), largely through the lagged effects of wage pause in the first-half of 1983. The cpi forecast is misleading because the budget shifts some health costs from the private sector to the government, and the inflation outlook using the broader-based deflator is a less rosy 11 per cent. One reason for the high rate, well above that of Australia's trading partners, is the rise in food prices in the wake of the drought. Another is the rash of state and semi-government price rises for services. The March devaluation is also contributing.

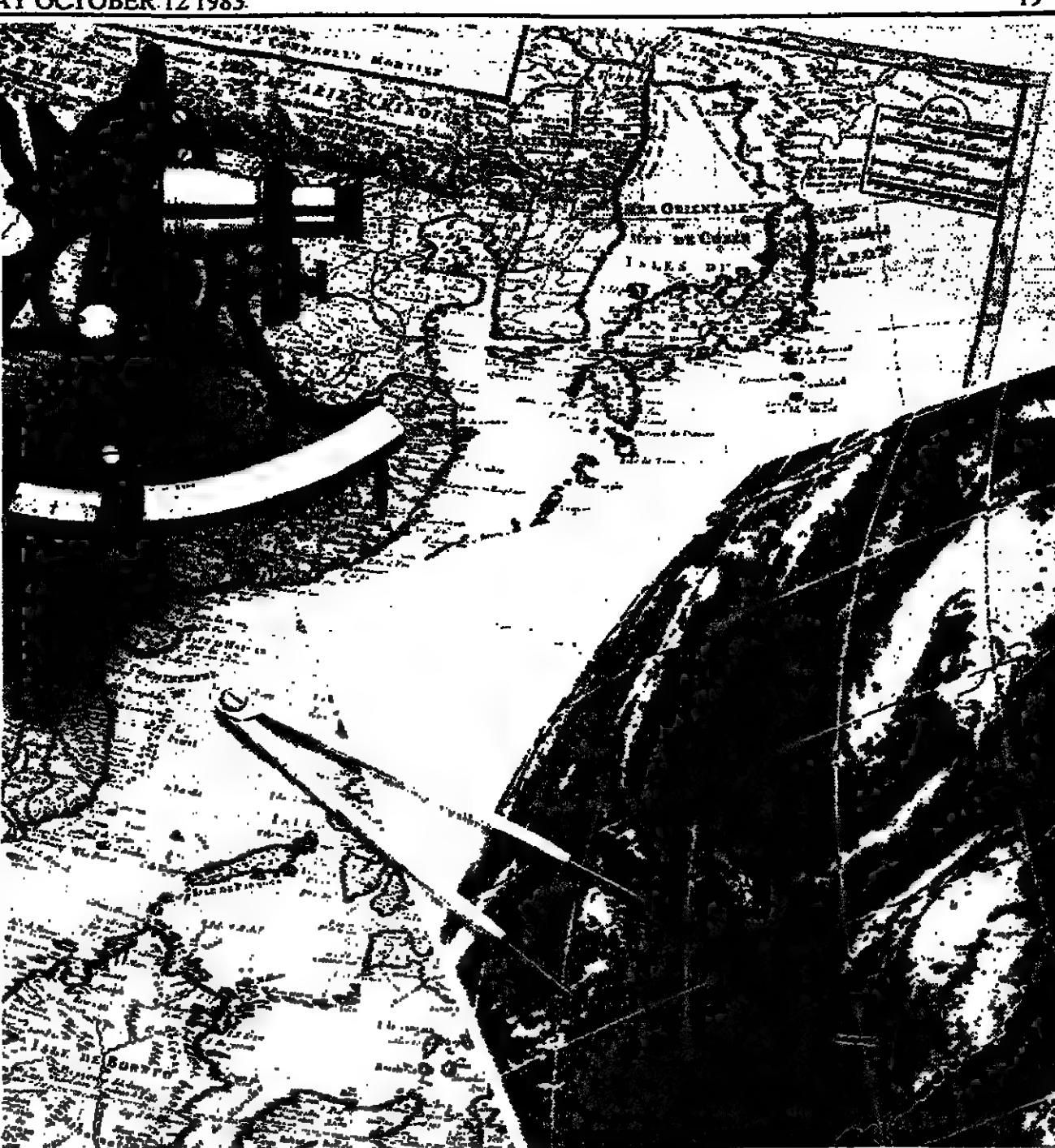
An area of relative policy success has been the exchange rate and balance of payments. Mr Hawke moved decisively by devaluing 10 per cent days after gaining office, partially correcting it for high wages growth (see table).

The effect of the recession in curbing imports has lowered the current account (trade and invisibles) deficit, while capital inflow has remained strong because of the follow-on effects of the 1981 resources boom, high local interest rates, and the perception of the outside world that Australia is not Mexico, Brazil or Argentina.

For the 1983-84, the Treasury forecast is for a further fall in imports and in the current account deficit, a greater fall in capital inflow, and a modest fall in international reserves, which are now high.

The main risk is that the healthy level of capital inflow will evaporate or reverse as a result of such factors as uncontrolled wage growth or government refusal to set interest rates high enough to control monetary growth.

Tony Thomas



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LABOUR COSTS

Rate of growth of average hourly wages (per cent)

Year to	Australia	OECD
December 1982	17.8	5.8
June 1983	10.9	5.5
December 1983*	8.5	6.0
June 1984*	8.4	6.6

* estimated

Source: Victorian Chamber of Manufactures

OVERSEAS LABOUR COSTS COMPARED WITH AUSTRALIAN

(adjusted for exchange rate changes)

Base 1979-80: 1000	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984*
First half of	992	921	976	928	901

* estimated

Source: Victorian Chamber of Manufactures

AGRICULTURE

Mud's money on the farm

There is a saying on Australian farms that "mud's money". The great drought of 1981-83 ensured little of either. The drought, in conjunction with depressed world prices and high cost inflation, lopped real incomes from farming by 53 per cent in 1982-83, the biggest fall by far in 30 years.

The good rains in the past few months (too good along the Queensland border, which was flooded) make a record wheat harvest likely in 1983-84. For farming as a whole, incomes are forecast by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to rise by 110 per cent to \$A4,400m (£2,619m), with rural exports to rise by 10 per cent to about \$A3,000m.

In more detail, crop production should rise by 48 per cent, with prices up 6 per cent, while a 4 per cent drop in livestock products will be easily offset by a rise of 20 per cent in prices. The output figures are all conservative owing to the recent upgrading of forecasts of the wheat harvest, which should top 18 million tonnes, about double last year's.

On top of this, for the first time in the 1980s, the rural "terms of trade" are moving in farmers' favour, with prices forecast to increase by 15 per cent against a rise of only 8 per cent in farm costs.

The bureau expects wool auction prices to rise by 14 per cent in 1983-84, provided recovery in the United States continues.

As a result of the drought's after-effects beef supplies to market are diminishing as farmers rebuild their herds. Prices are consequently up, by 39 per cent, but value of meat production and export are expected to decline.

Sugar prices have been at rock-bottom on world markets, but recent growing conditions in the northern hemisphere have been poor and since mid-year, sugar prices have turned up. The bureau forecasts that sugar exports should rise by 5 per cent to \$A615m despite a 16 per cent drop in the value of exports. However, the growing conditions in Queensland have been dry and the harvest volume will decline.



Stock deaths last year have led to a rise in meat prices

tration Commission to defer for six months the flow on of a \$A14-a-week pay rise to farm workers, having argued incapacity to pay. And the Australian Wool Corporation used its bargaining power to negotiate cuts in Australia-Europe wool freight rates.

In the long term, Australia's export-oriented rural sector faces a marketing problem. In the 1970s there was a rapid rise in wheat traded on world markets as the centrally-planned economies moved to improve their people's diet. High grain prices, however, also drove many importers into successful programmes towards self-sufficiency, to the extent that the only markets for Australia now with potential for

high imports are South America and Africa, neither with capacity to pay for them.

Australia had done well in meeting the high Middle East demand for grain. Even now, in the worst of circumstances, it is still selling a million tonnes a year to both Iraq and Iran.

EEC wheat export tonnages, which stood at 5 to 7 million tonnes a year in the 1970s and reached 10 million tonnes in 1979-80, have tumbled to an estimated 14 million tonnes in 1982-83, giving Australian growers something to think about.

Australian producers' hostility towards the European Community is at first glance surprising, since there is little direct competition for sales. But

producers have two grounds for concern. First, subsidized exports drive down prices generally. Secondly, when the EEC and the United States conduct a price war, with each other, smaller fry like Australia are trampled underfoot.

In wheat, direct Australia-EEC competition is occurring in China, where the EEC offers freight and other subsidies. This helped put nearly 900,000 tonnes into China in the second half of last year. Australia has an agreement with China for 1.5 to 2.5 million tonnes of wheat a year, subject to price, and last year no sales resulted because of a price disagreement.

The EEC also causes Australia problems with subsidized flour sales to Sri Lanka, forcing other suppliers into markets served by the Australians.

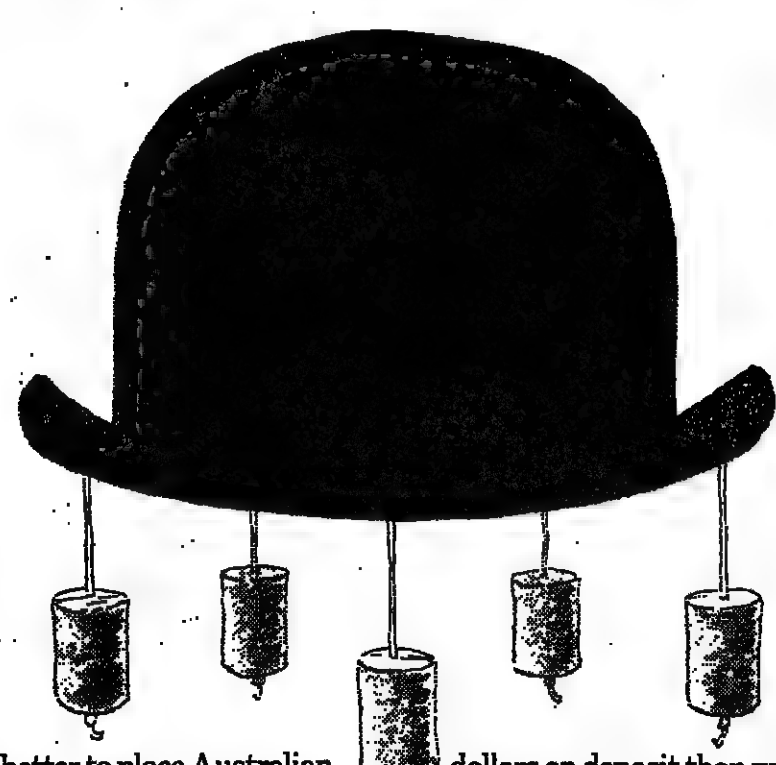
As far as sugar is concerned, Australian growers are fed up with what they see as the undermining by the EEC of the International Sugar Agreement (ISA), of which the European Community is not a member. Australia, a low-cost producer with a lot of reserve capacity, has been limiting its exports only to see the EEC take advantage of this forbearance with big rises in its uncompetitive beet sugar industry.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION & TRADE

	10-year average 1972/73 to 1981/82	1982/83 estimate
	Prod. Trade	Prod. Trade
Argentina	7.7 3.4	14.5 8.0
Australia	12.5 9.1	8.7 8.0
Canada	18.7 14.2	27.6 20.0
EEC	44.3 8.0	58.5 14.0
USA	55.7 24.1	78.4 41.5
Total major exporters	138.9 68.8	188.7 93.5
World total	403.8 74.8	478.3 98.7

Source: International Wheat Council

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MINING Digging deeper for new markets

Even a limited inspection of Australia's vast mineral and mining industries can be a daunting task which takes you across the continent, sometimes through inhospitable and barely accessible regions.

However, the heady days of far-flung and enthusiastic development are over for the time being and "quarry" Australia, with its resources exposed to domestic and world pressures, is having to face up to tough times. A visitor to iron and coal mines these days finds much belt-tightening and fretting about cutbacks.

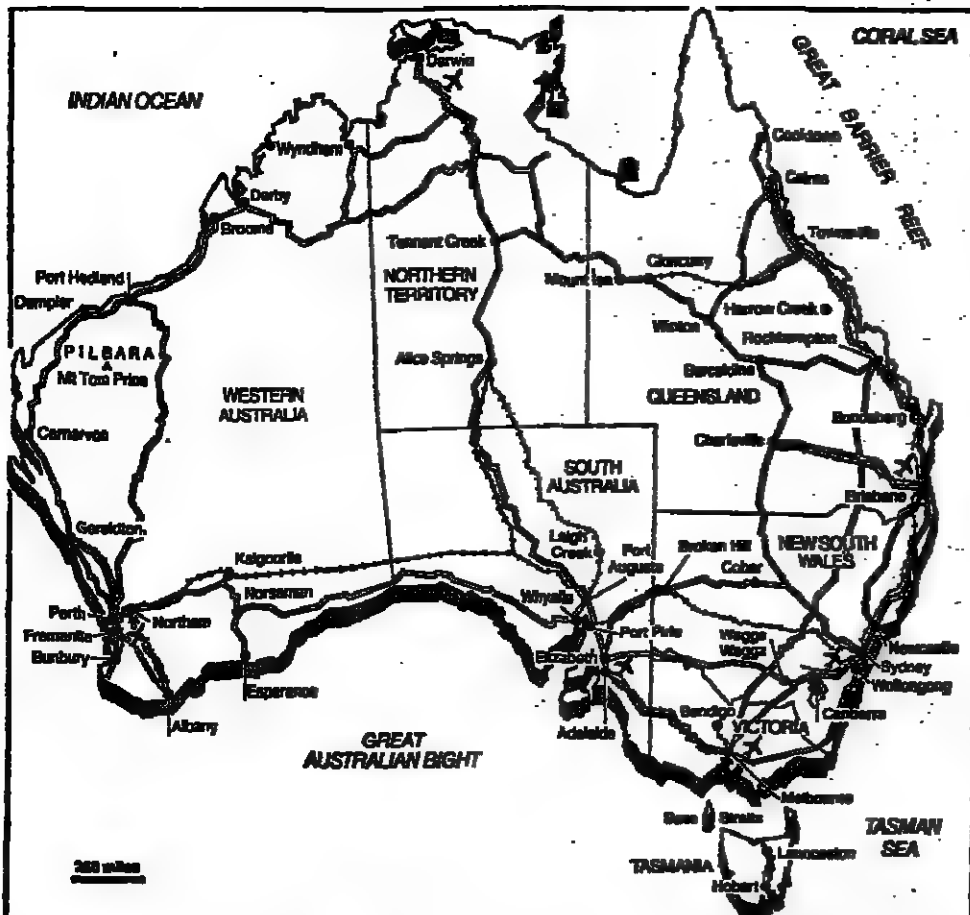
"This is one of the most difficult times in our history," says Mr John Wruck, a senior executive of Utah Development Company, the biggest coal producer in Australia, which is about to be taken over by Australia's largest industrial company, Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP).

The immediate problems are largely the result of a prolonged worldwide recession. The iron ore and coal businesses have been especially hard-hit. Other metals - Australia produces aluminium, bauxite, antimony, asbestos, chrysotile, bismuth, copper, gold, lead, manganese, mineral sands, natural gas, nickel, phosphate, silver, tin, tungsten, uranium and zinc - have suffered in varying degrees.

Australia, however, faces a longer-term challenge, so far tackled only half-heartedly. Since none of its resources monopolize the world market, the country must open up new markets and maintain its international cost competitiveness in old ones, at a time when whatever advantages it once possessed are being whittled away by newcomers.

Australian miners are hampered by high inflation (still double-digit), a flexible labour force organized along Byzantine lines which at the same time tends to promote industrial unrest, and governments - state and federal - which have strongly supported development, but which at the same time tend to consider underground resources as a cornucopia created for tax purposes only.

The problems include high levels of direct taxation, and indirect levies such as high rail



costs on state-operated, though sometimes privately financed, rail links. The current federal government would like to rationalize the taxation of resources, and has proposed a resource rent tax in vague terms, which could be based on, say, a minimum rate of return on investments.

The intention in theory would be to replace other, somewhat arbitrary, tax schemes which now exist. State governments, however, are reluctant to turn more control of taxes over to the federal government. And businessmen fear that any new tax plan, despite good intentions, will result ultimately in more and less taxes.

Australian businessmen can no longer be complacent about their ability to market what they can mine. Gone are the days when billion-dollar development efforts could be supported on the basis of long-term contracts with Japan. Japan's steel and power industries are pressing hard to cut back and save on contracts. Australian businessmen are having to sharpen their negotiating skills. They are also scrambling to diversify into new markets, none of which looks quite as fat and profitable as in the past.

New and old customers are becoming more fickle about quality control and consistency of supplies. Miners must know these days about technology than simply how to dig the raw material out of the ground.

From the coastal town of Karatha, built to support mine development in Western Australia's arid northwest, a twin-engine Beechcraft takes about 40 minutes to cross a seemingly endless reddish-brown expanse of desolate wilderness, dotted with scrawny brush and heat-baked gum trees, to arrive in iron ore country.

The destination, Hamersley Iron's Mount Tom Price, the richest deposit of ore in the Pilbara, looms below like a massive rust-coloured sandcastle. Its man-made contours testify to tens of millions of tons of ore which have already been carted by train nearly 250 miles to a seaport, and then to blast furnaces, mainly in Japan.

Hamersley is operating at 36 million tons a year, against a peak of 39 million tons in 1980, and its sales are running at only 31 million tons. Paradoxically, recent industrial disputes stoppages have posed the problem of maintaining enough stocks, more than 60 per cent of which go to Japan, to load onto incoming ore carriers at the port of Dampier.

More than 1,800 miles to the east, in the sprawling Bowen basin of Queensland, one of the largest coal discoveries in the world is being systematically dug from the earth. However, production at Utah Development's Harrow Creek is being deliberately restrained because of low demand for coking coal in Japan.

Production of the easily accessible coal, nearest the surface, is also down. Utah's production is running 6.5 million tons below its 22 million tons of annual capacity. Though sales are inching up, reducing stocks somewhat, mines are faced with the prospect of 20 million tons of new annual capacity of coal coming on stream in Canada and elsewhere around the world by next year, further tipping the scales against producers.

About half a dozen new mines are in Australia itself, where a surge in demand from Japan since the 1970s encouraged a massive amount of investment for both coking coal, used to make steel, and steaming coal as an energy alternative to oil.

The poor market situation was certainly borne out in price negotiations with Japan this year, when contract prices were about 20 per cent below last year. Negotiations on longer-term contracts now coming into force are due shortly, and Japan is putting on pressure for price reductions on these as well.

Australian miners are not pessimistic about their long-term prospects. Fortunately, the country has virtually unlimited supplies of high-quality minerals. The key, however, lies in Australia's ability to bring under control the excesses and bad habits of the past.

Richard Hanson

RACING

No horsing around Down Under

When Robert Sangster, the British millionaire racehorse owner, first arrived in Australia about 10 years ago, he thought it rather quaint that the country's biggest race was a two-mile handicap.

Mr Sangster, by his own admission, had a bit to learn about Australians and their racing and it took him until 1980, when he won the Melbourne Cup, to fully understand. He described the discovery, that day at Flemington racecourse, as "the thrill of my life".

"This is better than Epsom of Paris," he said. "This is a win of the heart. That's what the Melbourne Cup is all about - tradition and feeling."

The Cup is indeed the heartbeat of Australian racing, even though it is common for horses with the limited ability of Mr Sangster's Beldale Ball to win. The Derby and other three-year-old classics are of course important, but not in the way that they are in almost every other country in the world. Comparisons between Australia and elsewhere are virtually useless because racing, and the way it is approached, is so different.

Consider the following:

● Weight-for-age (wfa) racing may be the most glamorous section of the sport, but it still does not have the general appeal of a major handicap. More than once in recent years Australia's best horses, with a string of wfa victories behind them, have not been able to win full public acclaim until providing themselves in major handicaps.

● Most of the big race winners, including two champions of the last decade, Manikato and Kingston Town, are geldings. It seems that a colt only has to win a couple of two-year-old races, and he is syndicated and sent to stud without proving himself over a distance.

● Because of the emphasis on speed at stud, if a horse does appear to win major staying races he is often snubbed by breeders.

Australians love their horses. With more than 50 racetracks in the state of Victoria alone and hundreds throughout the country there is little chance of escape from horse talk, either in the city or in the remotest outback area.

It is in the tiny bush towns that the character of racing is often at its strongest. Walk into any pub and it is odds on that on the wall will be a photo of a horse winning a race, sometimes even a wall covered in



Neck and neck at Newcastle race course, NSW

photos. If the public doesn't own the horse himself, perhaps it belongs to the cousin of the wife of the publican's best friend.

Off-course Totalisator Agency Boards (TABs) are situated in every large suburb and town, providing an ever-increasing range of services. What started as sombre, tiny buildings requiring bets to be placed at least half an hour before a race and payouts held over to the next day, have become colourful places with betting up to the start of race, immediate payouts, televisions and display of approximate dividends.

There is also saturation coverage by the media. Daily newspapers provide fields and riders for every meeting on which the TAB operates and produce a full form guide for the main meeting. The Melbourne evening paper, *The Herald*, publishes a 12-page guide to all Saturday meetings on Friday nights and the morning papers produce four-page editions. All that is on top of the myriad strictly racing publications.

More and more meetings are now being televised live but more importantly, every single race on which the TAB operates is broadcast live on radio. Saturday morning radio, in mind-boggling, one station starts at 8 am with a half-hour preview recorded the day before. At 8.30 am the preview live, commencing up-to-date information on runners, a track report and reports of weekly gallops. This lasts half an hour, and then it is time for the official scratchings and bookmakers' markets.

At 9.30 am the scratchings are checked again and another preview given. At 10 am it is time for the second gallop and then a talk-back show, callers asking racing questions to a panel of experts. Then the scratchings and markets are checked. The talk-back show then resumes until about midday, when the scratchings are checked once again. After that comes another preview with the same previewer offering the same tips.

Once racing starts, up to 40 races an afternoon are broad-

cast with TAB approximate odds given every ten minutes or so. At the end of the day there is a review and soon after comes a preview for the harness racing and greyhound meetings that night.

Australian racing, in many ways, is a game for young men and for people who have never had much luck. The foresight of Mr Sangster enabled him to penetrate the industry so quickly, that in only a few years he became the biggest owner in the country. But there are literally thousands of small owners.

The best example again comes from Mr Sangster. On one of his early visits he strolled into a Melbourne hotel and was asked by the porters how they should go about leasing a horse. Owners in Australia are spread throughout the community. Even porters can race horses.

In Australia, leasing is common and small syndicates have become the rage. In some instances, with the right provincial trainer, you can pay little more than \$A20 a week for a sixth share in a horse capable of winning in the metropolitan area. Stakes are good.

Said Mr Sangster: "You can buy a yearling for \$A30,000 to \$A40,000 (£17,850 to £23,800) with a very good chance of earning that money on the racetrack. One in a hundred could do that in Europe."

There are even better examples. Manikato, the outstanding Australian sprinter of the last ten years and winner of more than \$A1 million in stake money, cost \$A3,500 as a yearling. Kingston Town, winner of close to \$A2 million and Australian record holder, was offered for sale as a yearling and could not reach his reserve of \$A5,000.

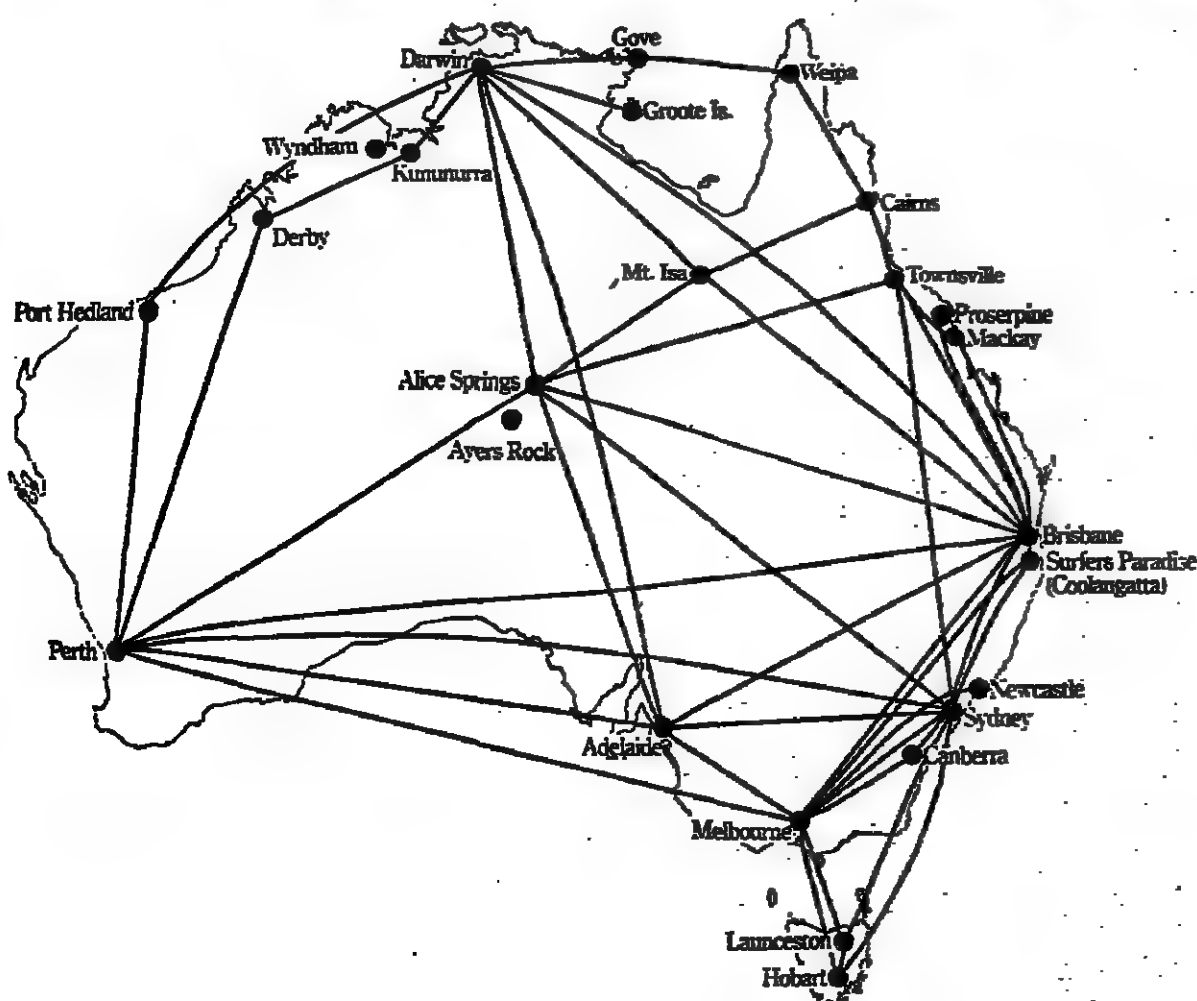
Three years ago Mr Sangster found out first-hand about the opportunities for even the cheapest horses. He owned the favourite for Victoria's premier sprint, the Newmarket, but his runner, Sportsman, could finish only second to one of the rank outsiders, Dor Kon.

Dor Kon's sire had earlier been banished to the outback to sire stock horses. Dor Kon was to have been sent to Hongkong, untried, yet a battling trainer, who rarely had city runners let alone winners, liked the look of the unfashionable gelding and paid the princely sum of \$A250 for him.

It is results like that which lead many to the conclusion that Australian racing provides value for money. Australians may do things in strange ways compared to Europe, but they do them well.

Mark Harding

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Investment and Finance

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Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 698.2 up 2.9
FT 100 Index 61.66 up 0.22
FT All Share 439.42 down 1.53
Bargains 19,819
New York Dow Jones
Average 1272.66 down 11.89
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,483.09 down 69.39
Hong Kong Hang Seng
Index 735.36 down 18.60
Amsterdam 152.8 up 1.4
Sydney AO Index 704.7 down 2.8
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 969.30 down 1.10
Brussels General Index
128.79 up 0.06
Paris CAC Index 141.3 up 0.4
Zurich SCA General 289.3 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON
Sterling \$1.5065 down 40pts
Index 83.7 down 0.2
DM 3.90 down 0.125
Fr 11.9150 down 0.0650
Yen 360 down 2.0
Dollar DM 125.7 up 0.1
DM 2.5875
NEW YORK
Sterling \$1.5070
Dollar DM 2.5885
INTERNATIONAL
ECU \$0.57647
SDR \$0.710333

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/4
Euro currency rates
3 month dollar 9 1/8-9 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month Fr 15 1/4-15 1/2
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/4
Treasury long bond 102 1/8-102 1/4
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme (V)
Average reference rate for
interest period September 7, to
October 4, 1983 inclusive:
9.718 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)
am \$400.50 pm \$399.00
close \$398.25-399 (2284-2284.50)
New York latest \$399
Kruggerand (per coin)
\$411-413 (\$272.50-273.50)
Sovereigns (new)
\$84-85 (\$262.50-263)
*Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Waring & Gifford (Holdings),
Hallam Tower Hotel, Sheffield
(noon).
McKay Securities, 18 Park-
side, Knightsbridge (noon).
Star Computer, 84 Great
Eastern Street EC2 (10am).
Spear (J. W.) & Sons, Richard
House, Green Street, Enfield
(noon).

TODAY

Interim: Ash & Lucy, R
Cartwright Holdings, Cass
Group, First Castle Electronics,
Fogarty, Greenbank, Industrial
Holdings, Helene of London,
London Sumatra Plantations,
Steel Brothers Holdings, Spirax-Sarco Engineering, United
Parcels, J O Walker and Co.
Finals: Amoco Trust, Bejam
Group, CPU Computers, T C
Harrison, Pochin's, Scottish
Metropolitan Property.

NOTEBOOK

Ward White Group, the retail
footwear and manufacturing
group, yesterday announced
details of a £10.7m rights issue.
The company also announced a
40 per cent increase in pretax
profits to £2.1m in the six
months to June 30 Page 22

Pretax profits at Waterford
Glass, the Irish glass and
chinaware company, rose by 15
per cent to £18.3m in the six
months to June 30. The
company was helped by improved
sales in the United States
Page 22

FMC, Britain's largest
slipstreaming group which is
still considering a management
buy-out, has sold its
Northern Ireland meat plant at
Newry to the Anglo Irish Meat
Company for £430,000 cash.
Stocks are raising another
£230,000 in cash.
In a full year this is expected
to contribute about £68,000 to
FMC's pretax profits compared
to a pretax and interest loss
of £547,000 in the last full year.

State spending and borrowing still racing ahead

Money growth on target as M3 falls for first time in four years

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Government's main measure of money, supply, sterling M3, fell last month for the first time in more than four years to bring monetary growth back on target.

But Government spending and borrowing are still running well over planned levels. The emergency measures announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in July to cut borrowing by £1,000m this year have yet to bite.

The Bank of England said yesterday that sterling M3 fell by a provisional 0.5 per cent in the five weeks to mid-September. This was the first drop since March 1979. Since February, sterling M3 has risen at an annual rate of 9.75 per cent, well within the 7 to 11 per cent target band, and sharply down from last month's annualized rate of 12.4 per cent.

After rapidly accelerating monetary growth in the spring, the last three months have seen almost no increase in sterling M3, as government borrowing has slowed and the authorities have stepped up sales of gilts to mop up excess cash.

Growth of the other money measures has also slackened,

MONEY GROWTH		
	Sept 83	Feb-Sept 83
M3	-0.5%	11%
M4	-1%	9%
M2	+0.5%	13%

target band Feb 83-April 84 at annual rate 7-11

Source: Bank of England

although they remain above target.

The authorities have made it clear that last week's 0.5 per cent cut in interest rates, which

came after the Bank had received early intimation that the money supply figures would be good, would be the last for some while.

They are anxious to keep monetary growth within the target range over the coming months, at a time when borrowing from the banks is likely to remain buoyant and the Government must sell a lot of gilts just to replace maturing debt.

According to the London clearing banks, however, lending was modest last month, with almost all of it accounted for by

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING REQUIREMENT		
	Monthly total £m	Cumulative total £m
1982-83	2,813	12,613
March 1983-84	1,192	1,192
April	1,717	2,909
May	2,547	5,456
June	932	6,388
July	1,299	7,687
Aug	1,155	8,842
Sept		

Source: Treasury

CBI chief still pessimistic on recovery

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday warned the Government on the first day of the Conservative Party conference that the recession showed no signs of ending.

Rising ministerial criticism

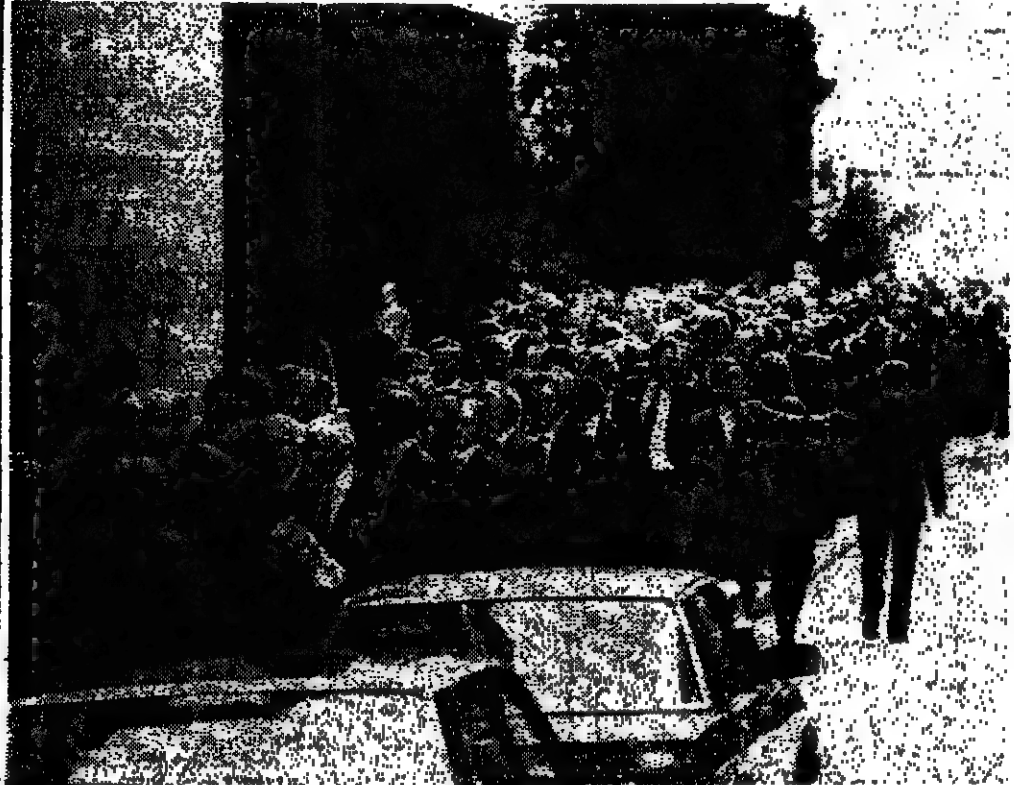
once again

Sir Terence said that overall growth "is going to be very slow".

He said after meeting CBI leaders at Gathead, Tyne and Wear that industrial recovery in the North-east was at a standstill and prospects were flat. Considerable differences were to be found throughout the country but for every two or three companies showing an increase in business, a further two or three were showing a decrease.

The only bright spots in an otherwise bleak outlook for the North-east were the chemical, car components and building materials sectors. But despite the problems, he said, there was no case for increased regional aid.

Any rise in regional support should go to the West Midlands which was suffering more than elsewhere from recession.



Head count: long and winding queue as brokers flocked to cast their votes in the City yesterday (Photograph: John Voos).

Brokers applaud 'open door' deal

By Wayne Laint

Stockbrokers yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of the deal worked out by the Stock Exchange Council, and the Government to avoid an appearance before the Restrictive Practices Court by the Exchange.

At a packed City meeting yesterday, the largest in the history of the Stock Exchange, 869 members voted in favour, while 63 voted against.

Many of the members - about 1,500 attended - could not get into the 600-seat Charterd Insurance Institute hall and were left outside.

A poll vote of the entire 4,000 membership was demanded but withdrawn when insufficient

signatories supported the motion.

The members were voting on the introduction of lay members to the council and appeals committee and the abolition of fixed commissions.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, said that the lay members, all of whom have to be approved by the Bank of England, could become senior figures on the council including chairman.

He said that the next step was for the Government to introduce legislation to remove the Exchange from the Restrictive Practices Court.

Sir Nicholas said the result enabled the council to "go

forward doing everything we can to ensure we continue to run a competitive and well regulated central market."

He said the Stock Exchange had been in "an intolerable position" with the restrictive practices case.

The solution was not a question of a good choice or a bad choice, but "an exercise in risk analysis which is something brokers and jobbers are well qualified to undertake", he said.

Of those members voting against, particularly representatives of the smaller companies, some felt that although Sir Nicholas had "won a battle the war would continue", as one said after the meeting.

US 'in line to meet IMF deadline'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration is increasingly confident that it will meet the November 30 deadline for approval of the delayed US quota increase for the International Monetary Fund, despite continuing deadlock in Congress.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, said yesterday that the administration was confident that Congress would pass legislation authorizing America's \$8.4 billion share of the badly-needed quota increase by early next month.

Appearing much more confident of passage than at the recently concluded IMF annual meetings, Mr Regan said the administration's behind-the-scenes negotiating with key members of Congress is having a favourable effect.

Specifically, he indicated that appeals from other Governments and warnings of considerable upheaval in the international banking system, have prompted a growing number of reluctant Congressmen to change their minds.

Mr Regan indicated that with a little more arm-twisting he expected the legislation to be stripped of some crippling, politically-motivated amendments which are unacceptable to both the administration and the IMF and have, therefore, prevented a final vote.

Both houses of Congress have passed legislation approving the increased funds but the Bills differ considerably and leaders of both parties have been unable to resolve their differences in conference.

The IMF has set a November 30 deadline for member nations to approve the quota increase.

In recent weeks, top administration officials, including President Reagan, have been contacting members of Congress to urge them to resolve their differences and approve the legislation speedily.

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Stocks hit by oil crisis fear

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks, depressed by the prospect of a Middle East oil crisis, were broadly lower in heavy early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 7 points after falling 8.33 in the morning.

However, among the second tier of issues prices weakened with declining issues ahead of advances two to one.

Although many oil analysts discount serious effects of Iran's

threat to block oil shipments in the Persian Gulf, spot crude prices have risen sharply and that has given the stock market the jitters.

Leading oils were down, with Exxon at 38down 1/4, Phillips at 35 1/2 down 1/4, Texaco at 36 1/2 down 1/4, Atlantic Richfield at 47 1/2 down 1/4, and Standard of California at 36 1/2 down 1/4.

International Paper at 55 1/2 was up 1/4, Modular Computer Systems at 9 1/2 was down 1/4, Warner Communications at 22 was down 1/4, Boeing at 42 1/2 was down 1/4, Northrop at 82 was up 1/4, Comdisco at 23 was down 1/4, Hospital Corporation of America at 47 1/2 was up 1/4, American Medical International at 31 1/2 was down 1/4, and Levi Strauss at 47 1/2 was down 1/4.

IBM at 133 1/2 was down 1/4, General Motors at 77 was down 1/4, Merck at 102 1/2 was down 1/4, American Express at 39 1/2 was down 1/4.

All clear for laundry bid battle

By Philip Robinson

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary for Trade and Industry, yesterday ended one takeover battle for control of a laundry group and opened another.

He cleared two interrelated takeovers of any Monopolies Commission investigation. This means Fritchard Services, a contract cleaning group, may take control of Spring Grove and that Bregreen (Holdings), Fritchard's rivals in the cleaning business, may pursue its £31.5m takeover of Sunlight Services, without fear of a Government investigation.

Sunlight had itself been a rival to Fritchard in a bitter battle for control of Spring Grove. Bregreen had made clear that it would not proceed with its offer had Sunlight bought Spring Grove.

In his statement, Mr Parkinson said effectively that as Fritchard had won, there was no need to make a formal statement on the Sunlight offer.

However, had there been, the

LAUNDRY INDUSTRY TAKEOVERS

	Predator	Target	Value	Result
1982				
June	Spring Grove	St George's	£20m	completed
July	Sunlight	Johnson Group	£37m	MMG blocked
Initial		Johnson Group		MMG blocked
1983				
August	Fritchard	Spring Grove	£15m	completed
	Sunlight	Spring Grove	£21m	not decided
	Bregreen	Sunlight	£31m	not decided

merger would have been referred for investigation.

Indications that this would be the case filtered through from the Office of Fair Trading to Sunlight early last month. And last year the Monopolies Commission blocked rival takeovers of Johnson Group Cleaners by Sunlight and Initial and made it clear that takeovers of the top six laundry businesses by one of them would likely attract a further investigation.

Both Sunlight and Spring Grove are among the top half dozen laundry companies.

Sunlight's price rose 25p on the stock market last night to

240p. Bregreen's rose 8 1/2p to 100p. At that price Bregreen's five for two share swap values Sunlight at 250p.

On its first closing date a fortnight ago, Bregreen's offer had attracted acceptances of just 3.7 per cent of Sunlight's equity.

Mr David Evans, Bregreen chairman, said yesterday: "That was before everything was much clearer. Our offer was conditional on Sunlight not winning Spring Grove."

"I think we will now succeed with our bid for Sunlight. We have time to increase the offer under the rules, and we will if we feel it is necessary."

STEETLEY

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, MINERALS AND REFRACTORIES

Interim report for six months ended 30th June 1983

Pretax profits increased by 60%

Earnings per share up 30%

	Half-year to 30th June 1983	Half-year to 30th June 1982	Year to 31st December 1982
Turnover	196,782	226,670	420,169
Surplus before taxation	8,562	5,441	9,351
Net earnings per ordinary share	7.72p	4.26p	7.41p

The profit before taxation for the first half of 1983 was 60 per cent. higher than for the same period last year. Earnings per share increased by 80 per cent. and exceeded those for the whole of last year. A reduction in interest paid of £1.5 million resulted from the combined effects of lower interest rates and much reduced borrowings.

All major activities in the United Kingdom have improved their profits. Whilst the market in building bricks showed a marked upturn, the profit improvement in other construction materials and refractories owes more to increased efficiency than to greater volume.

Investment in our core activities continues. A new brick plant at Bishop Auckland was brought on stream during the period. Construction of a new clay tile plant has started in order to meet increasing demand.

The Australian operations are now confined to mineral extraction and processing which have latterly shown some improvement. The North American mineral operations also improved their performance as the period progressed.

The increased final dividend which will be recommended to shareholders will be quantified when the results for the full year can be considered. These results demonstrate that the effect of the actions taken to improve profitability are now beginning to show through. When this is coupled with the improved trading conditions which in recent months have become evident in some areas, then we are justifiably confident about the outlook for the remaining part of this year, as well as for 1984.

David Donne, Chairman



Steetley plc, P.O. Box 6, Geteford Hill, Workshop, Notts. S81 8AF

Brewery takeover hits snag of special clause

Peculiar quarrel at Theakston's

By Derek Pain

A peculiar takeover brew was fermenting yesterday at the Yorkshire brewery of T. and R. Theakston, the 150-year-old business, famed for its Old Peculiar strong beer.

Theakston is a public but unquoted company which is 48 per cent owned by the London Trust, once one of Britain's more adventurous investment trusts but now busy reducing its involvement.

Last month, The Times disclosed that Mr Michael Abraham, famed for revitalizing the AW (Securities) carpet group in the 1960s, had agreed to acquire much of the London Trust shareholding and planned to 'underwrite' a rights issue which would have given him control.

But Mr Abraham, it seems, was not to the taste of Mr Paul Theakston, the company chairman and a member of the founding family.

He was so upset by the Abraham scheme that he approached Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewery which has been pushing into Yorkshire.

Mr Patrick Townsend, Brown's chairman, produced an offer which, it seems, is not far removed from Theakston's £2.4m asset value and which won over London Trust and at least some members of the Theakston family. As a result, Matthew Brown was set to gain control - or was it?

For Theakston shares contain special, pre-exemption rights

which, in effect, mean that existing shareholders must first offer their shares to other shareholders before selling to an outsider.

This arrangement was designed to prevent the company falling into the hands of an unwelcome bidder.

The Brown deal is conditional on the problems created by these provisions being surmounted. Yesterday, it was by no means certain that these difficulties would be resolved, although there are signs that now the Theakston conflict has come into the open, other bidders will be tempted to try their luck.

Theakston is a great beer name and all this activity could well lead to the sort of auction

most family controlled companies seek to avoid.

There were suggestions that at least two other breweries had expressed interest in the company, which has a brewery at Masham, another at Carlisle, and 10 pubs.

Theakston, which named its prized beer after an ancient ecclesiastic court which used to meet at Masham, achieved profits of about £275,000 from sales of £9m in its last financial year.

But it has clearly found the going tough in recent years and could do with a helping hand. London Trust's managing director, Mr Henry Berens, admits he has changed sides because the Matthew Brown offer is higher.

مہکذا من رلامہ

RACING: FORMER CHAMPION SUSPENDED FOR 12 DAYS

Carson's ban offers fresh title chance to Piggott

By Michael Seely

Willie Carson was banned from riding for 12 days by the disciplinary committee of the Jockey Club in London yesterday. As the sentence is effective from today until October 23 inclusive, Carson will have only seven days in which to consolidate his hold on his fifth jockeys title before the season ends at Doncaster on November 5.

Carson arrived at Warwick by helicopter just in time to watch Lester Piggott, Carson's closest attendant in the table, ride Welsh Warrior to a comfortable victory in the Queen's Bess Stakes for Henry Cecil. Piggott, however, is not in an optimistic mood about his chances of claiming his 11th championship. "It should be pretty difficult," he said with a smile as he went out to ride Green Mist in the Warrington Nursery Handicap Stakes. This was Piggott's only winning ride and Carson left the course empty-handed. Carson is now ridden 152 times, 17 more than Piggott's total of 135.

Carson's suspension for his careless riding of Shuteye at Beverley on September 21 makes this a record 42 suspensions handed out to jockeys this year. This is the former champion's third suspension this season, his previous disqualifications having been for six days and eight days for the same offence of careless riding at Ayr and at Goodwood, respectively.

Haydock Park

Draw Advantage: 6/1 and over low numbers best

Total Double 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0

2.00 WHITEBARK STAKES (Div 1: 2-y-o maidens: £1,995; 1m 40yd) (9 runners)

1. 092 BIRMAN (J. Carson) 9-10 J. Carson 9-10 J. Carson 9-10

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Willie Carson: misses ride on Mayotte

Handicap on Tom Sharp. "I must say I am blowing a bit," Miss Kelleway said. "I haven't ridden for three days, but I am running every night to try to get fitter. My sister Sam's rock Donagel Prince in his worst this morning. She says that the old boy's flying."

Sackford remains favourite at 4-1 with Ladbrokes for the Dubai Champion Stakes on the same afternoon. Reports from Pulborough indicate that Guy Harwood's talented three-year-old is in magnificent shape after a month for the International. There is a possibility that he will stay in training.

All Along the Arc winner, has been installed 5-2 favourite for the one mile five furlong Rothmans International on turf at Woodbine racetrack, Toronto, on Sunday.

Another French filly, Escalante, is fourth best in the local betting at 10-1. Canada's Nijinsky Secret and last year's Rothmans' winner, Majestic Prince, are backed at 4-1.

"Sackford is fine," Geoff Lawson said yesterday. "One thing that we've got going for us is that he is a bit fresher than most." Salmon Leap is second favourite at 5-2 as he attempts to improve on his last season's fifth to All Along in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

At Warwick Gay Kelleway said that she was looking forward to her attempt to become the first woman to win the big race on Donagel Prince, after having looked remarkably good in the outside losing several lengths in the process. Both

Coates on Fill the Jug, who eventually finished third, and Connorton on Signorina Odore had been sandwiched against the rails. Carson refused to comment as he hurried to a taxi to take him to the helicopter. "I could say something but it would be very rude," was his only remark.

Among the important mounts Carson will miss at the important Newmarket Houghton which starts tomorrow is that on Mayotte, the 6-1 favourite for the Tote Cesarewitch on Saturday. Richard Holder, the mare's trainer, said at Warwick that he had obtained the services of Pat Eddery for Mayotte. "I've been lucky to get Pat at the last moment. Mayotte is very well and I think she'll go close. She always seems to come to her best in the autumn. Don't forget that she won three flat races and the Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot at the same time last year."

There were 31 acceptors at the four-day stage for the Cesarewitch. Ladbrokes go 6-1 Mayotte, 11-1 Morgan's Choice, 12-1 Bajan Sunshine and 14-1 Donagel Prince.

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In return, we offer an attractive salary and a wide range of benefits including generous holidays and contributory pension scheme.

If you have the qualities we seek and would like to find out more, contact:

Anna Lorbeck, Personnel Officer,
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Please write with a resume of your career and achievements to date to: Confidential Reply Service, Ref. AM1 8840 Austin Knight Advertising Limited, 20 Soho Square, London W1A 1DS.

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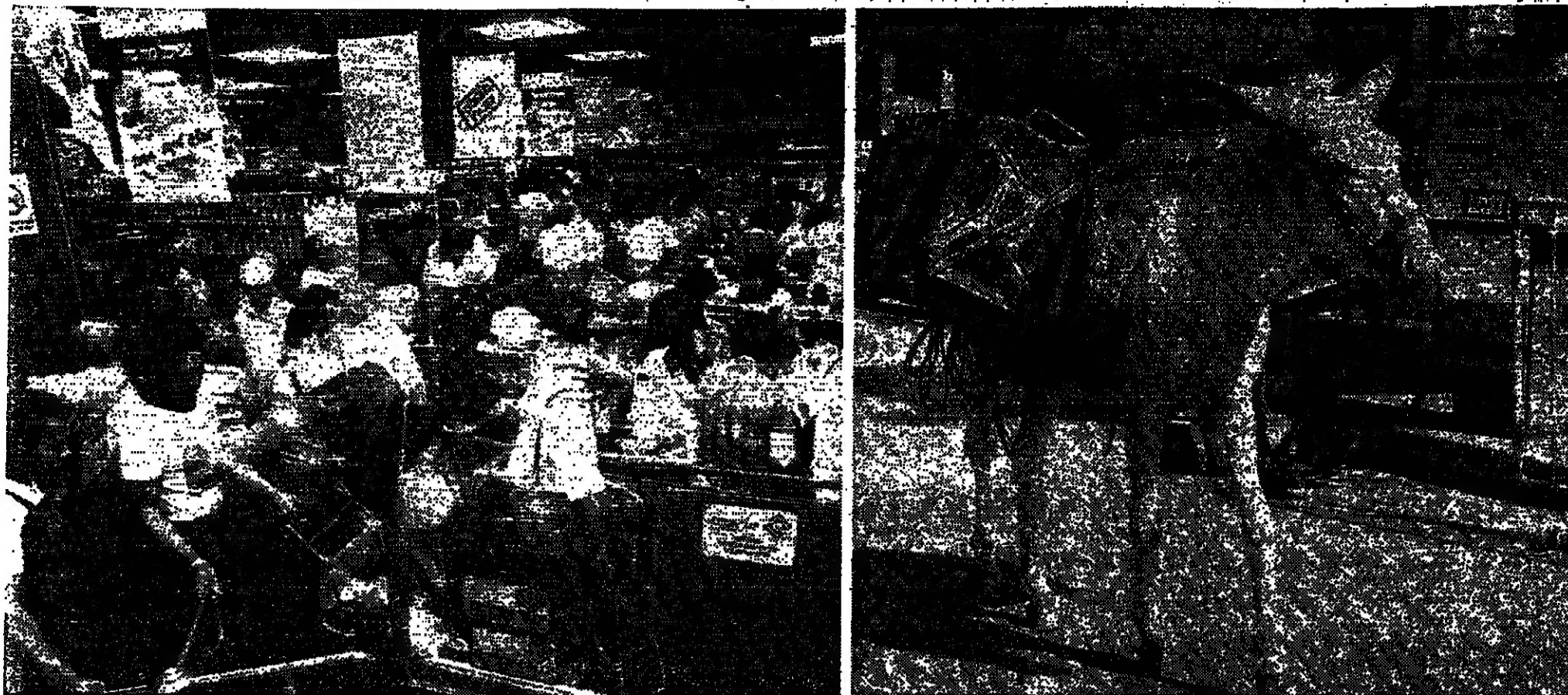
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Israelis greet austerity with panic buying spree



Supermarket Bonanza: Jerusalem shoppers cash in before the price rises and in Tel Aviv a mule tops up his master's tanks (Photograph, Orde Eliason)

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

Israel's bubble of superficial prosperity burst painfully yesterday when the new right-wing government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir enforced a 23 per cent devaluation and a sweeping package of austerity measures in an effort to halt the rapid economic decline.

The agreement on the draconian moves followed a stormy all-night cabinet session which began immediately after ministers had

drunk a formal toast to the new administration, sworn in on Monday with a 60-33 majority. The urgent need to solve an economic crisis regarded as the most serious in Israel's history has presented the 68-year old Mr Shamir with a supreme test of his skills as a coalition manager. It has also threatened a clash with the trade unions, which are opposed to government attempts to weaken the link between wage rises and the inflation rate: a nationwide two-hour warning

strike has been called for tomorrow. Within an hour of the measures being broadcast over Israel Radio, supermarkets were besieged in a wave of panic buying designed to beat the 50 per cent cut in subsidies on all basic commodities at midnight. Long queues of motorists formed at petrol stations, trying to purchase dwindling supplies before a 23 per cent price rise.

Many Israelis took the day off work to take part in the buying spree with ruthless single-mindedness more usually associated with operations of the Israeli Army. Goods arriving at shops in Jerusalem, were seized long before they could replenish empty food counters.

Mrs Shoshana Sagay, the young wife of an electricity corporation worker explained: "Everybody is going mad to buy now because they know that tomorrow everything will have gone up, not just the basic things that are subsidised. People here realize that we are now facing a real change in our way of life."

Study aims to stop jail riots

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Ways of controlling prisoners in Britain's riot-torn top security jails are to be studied by a new Home Office committee. It will consider whether present measures for segregating disruptive prisoners are effective and whether now they could be supplemented if necessary.

The setting up of the committee, under Mr Anthony Langdon, director of operational policy, coincides with prison officers' calls for the reintroduction of control units to deal with disruption of prisoners held for longer periods as a result of the measures proposed by Mr Leon Brittan yesterday need to be taken out of circulation.

The idea of modified control units, which were phased out in 1975 after fierce controversy over allegations of a dehumanizing effect on prisoners, is favoured by some prison chiefs. The original regulations on control units said that there should be a "first stage" of a 180-day regime with separation from other prisoners, then a second stage of "associated regime" in which there would be a period of "activity" with other prisoners in the unit work, education and leisure time.

Tension created by groups of men in Wormwood Scrubs before a disturbance in 1979 will lead the committee to consider how to defuse trouble by a better population mix. London gangsters, black prisoners and Irish inmates clashed in a power struggle in the Scrubs and sex offenders banded together for their protection.

Mr Brittan's proposals got a mixed reaction in the penal field. The Prison Officers' Association and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) welcomed the extension of parole to shorter term prisoners.

According to Home Office estimates, that is likely to reduce the prison population by about 2,500 inmates on any one day.

Police killers 'will serve at least 20 years'

Continued from page 1

to deal with violent crime will, I believe, demonstrate conclusively that under this Government those who prey on their fellow citizens do so at their peril."

Mr Brittan then turned to the need to deal with overcrowding of the prisons. In a move that could cut the prison population by 2,500 by the end of next year, he said that the minimum qualifying period for parole is to be reduced from one year to six months.

Ways are also to be examined of getting fine defaulters, drunks, and mentally disordered prisoners out of the

Frank Johnson at Blackpool

A sinner repents his double life

The Conservatives, on their first day of their conference yesterday, made it clear that they were not prepared to forgive the sinner that repented.

There was no widespread demand for a resignation. Mr Leon Brittan had got away with it.

Mr Brittan, the Home Secretary, had arrived in Blackpool to make the most difficult public appearance of his career. He had to reply to a debate on law and order amid seemingly uncontrollable gossip and innuendo that for years he had been living an amazing double life as a Thatcherite and wet.

Until the June election he had held the post of Chief Secretary to the Treasury, a job where, according to his critics he could easily hide his witness by occasionally denouncing the closure of an old folk's home or curbing the rate of increase in the sum going to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

But when he became Home Secretary after the election, it proved impossible for him to prevent the truth coming out. He had to deal with criminals; his apparent lack of any impact on their activities proved in the eyes of the party that he was a wet.

Mr. Johnson, the Conservative Party's spokesman, said that the party was not prepared to forgive the sinner that repented. He said that the party was not prepared to forgive the sinner that repented. He said that the party was not prepared to forgive the sinner that repented.

They were the simple folk who yesterday gave Mr Parkinson the benefit of the doubt. True, Mr Ivor Stanbrook, MP for Orpington, was to be heard giving interviews saying that Mr Parkinson should resign. But Orpington, with its easy access to Crystal Palace, always was a soccer rather than an adultery town.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits Aberdeen University to open The Queen Mother Library and to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, 11.
Princess Margaret visits the Intelligence Centre at Ashford, Kent, 12.
The Duke of Gloucester opens Operation Drake Fellowship, Fairbridge Team Centre, Fulham, SW6, 11.30.
The Duchess of Gloucester

attends Evensong at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, 5.10; and attends a dinner by the Royal College of Organists at Castle Road, Windsor, 7.45.
The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, attends a dinner in honour of a New Zealand high-level mission from the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, at Vintners' Hall, EC4, 7.55.
New exhibitions
Prints by Lockwood House artists, MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling University; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Oct 31).
The Duke of Gloucester

Exhibitions in progress

That's Shell - That's Paintings, posters, calendars, newspaper advertisements and books dating from around 1907 to present day, Castle Museum, Northampton; Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45 (until October 30).
Work by Ray Howard Jones, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5 (until Oct 29).
Police Society: Arthur Davis - portraits of the English country gentleman and his family, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Market Square, Preston, Lancashire; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until Nov 12).
Jewelry by Marilyn Nicholson, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Nov 5).
Last chance to see

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Ackerman 1783-1983, by John Ford (Ackerman, £28.50)
Bells and Bells by Piers Paul Hodge, £12.50
Churches and Royal Palaces, by Colonel W. A. Salmon (D. Brown, Gleming, £7.50)
Cocktails and Laughter, the Albums of Louis Ducloux of Westminster (Flemish Gentlemen and Tradesmen, the values of economic catastrophe, by Charles Henderson-Turner (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £10.95)
The Call of the Wild, by Jack London, £12.50
The Coast of Bohemia, by John Galsworthy, £12.50
The Culture of Technology, by Arnold Pacey (Blackwell, £15)
The Legacy of Alfred Nobel, the story behind the Nobel Prizes, by Ragnar Solheim (The Viking Press, £12.50)
The Trials, by Franz Kafka, and eight other famous novels, new hardback series (Landmark, £4.95)

National Day

Spain's National Day marks the birth of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Spaniards around the world have traditionally commemorated their common heritage ever since, with occasional interruptions. During the Franco regime, for example, October 12 was celebrated by another national holiday on July 18, which marked the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. Since the country's return to democracy after the Generalissimo's death, October 12 has been reinstated as the Fiesta Nacional de la Hispanidad (National Day of Spanish Consciousness).

Roads

London and South-east: A11: Mile End Road reduced at Burdett Road, M25: Westbound carriageway shared at junction with M25, Swanley, Kent. A28: Temporary signals at Guildford Road, Mayford, Surrey.
Midlands and East Angles: M1: One carriageway shared between junctions 15 and 16 near Northampton; Rotherham services closed. A47: Single lane only two miles E of Northampton, North. A38: Single lane only on Tyburn Road, Birmingham, into city.
North: A1(M): One carriageway shared at Blyth, Northamptonshire. A34: Roadworks on Wilmslow Road, Manchester. Blackpool: Roadworks on Blackpool Road, affecting town and M55 and A583. Wales and West: M4: Single lane only westbound at Severn Bridge until Oct 11 and single lane eastbound until Oct 14. M4: One carriageway shared between junctions 20 (Almondsbury) and 21 (Severn Bridge). A58: Lanes closed on A58 between M4 and Blackpool, Taunton, Somerset.
Scotland: A90: Northbound carriageway shared at Forth Road Bridge. A90: One lane only southbound north of Kinross, Tayside. M8: Eastbound carriageway shared between Letham boundary and Harthill service area. (Information supplied by A.A.)

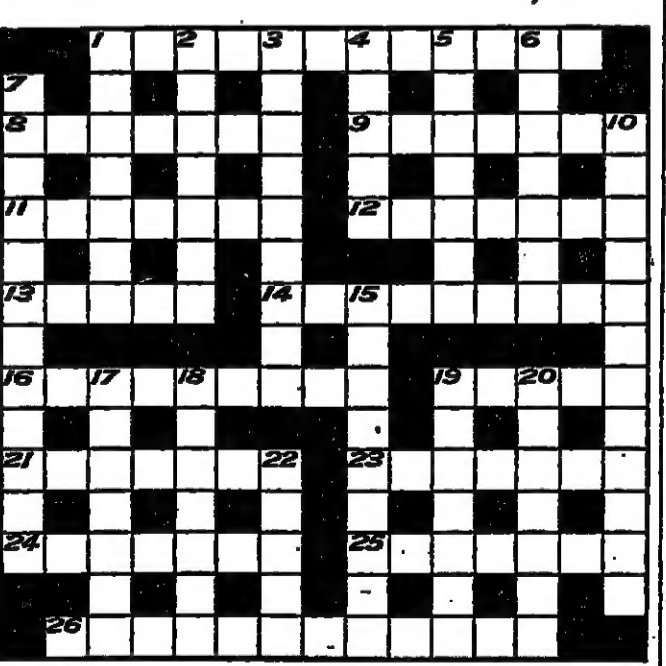
Weather forecast

A deep depression to W Scotland will bring a strong SW flow across Britain with frontal troughs crossing inset parts.
Sea to midnight
London, East Angles, Midlands: some rain and drizzle at first, then brighter; rain later; wind SW, fresh or strong; max 18 to 17 (S) to 6 (N).
Central & NW England, Channel: rain, drizzle, light intervals, more rain later, hill and coastal fog; wind SW, fresh or strong, locally gale; max 18 to 15 (S) to 4 (N).
Central & NE England: rain, heavy at times, hill and coastal fog; wind SW, strong, locally gale; max 13 to 14 (S) to 5 (N).
Wales, NW England, Lake District: rain, drizzle, hill and coastal fog; wind SW, strong, locally gale; max 13 to 14 (S) to 5 (N).
Ile of Man, Shetland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Orkney, Shetland: rain, drizzle, hill and coastal fog; wind SW, strong, locally gale; max 11 to 13 (S) to 2 (N).
Anglo-NW Scotland, N Ireland: heavy showers, heavy at times, bright intervals; wind SW strong or gale; max 12 to 13 (S) to 2 (N).
Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain at times; wind SE, veering SW, fresh or strong; locally gale; max 11 to 13 (S) to 2 (N).
Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Very unsettled and windy. Temperature rather above normal, becoming colder later.

High tides

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	6.15	6.54
Aberdeen	6.15	6.54
Amsterdam	11.27	11.12
Belfast	6.15	6.54
Bombay	11.11	10.58
Buenos Aires	9.55	10.13
Dover	6.15	6.54
Edinburgh	6.15	6.54
Glasgow	6.15	6.54
Hong Kong	4.08	4.43
Hull	6.15	6.54
Lyons	10.21	10.08
Madras	7.21	7.44
Manila	6.15	6.54
Medan	6.15	6.54
Perth	6.15	6.54
Portsmouth	6.15	6.54
San Francisco	11.08	10.58
Shanghai	6.15	6.54
Singapore	6.15	6.54
Sourabaya	6.15	6.54
Tokyo	6.15	6.54
Yokohama	6.15	6.54

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,258



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bishop of London? Not (12).
 - 2 County appointment for North African tribeswoman (7).
 - 3 The right moment's here for Dewar's invention (7).
 - 4 Confuse prices after opening Byron's poem (7).
 - 5 A useful tool one comes across (7).
 - 6 Israel's army captain gets a battalion to about-turn (5).
 - 7 Legal speaker produces depression about girl (9).
 - 8 Go in first for widespread military set-up (4,5).
 - 9 Islands in company with another (5).
 - 10 The cap I ordered for liver? (7).
 - 11 Free French articles as hard to get (7).
 - 12 Knocked down on reaching crease? (3,4).
 - 13 One of those fraud victim's taken to daily (7).
 - 14 Go crazy, like Kipling's ditties (12).
- DOWN**
- 1 Highly-placed official with faithful aide (7).
 - 2 Trouble afoot for this holiday-maker? (7).
 - 3 Avoided being tackled in such a casual way (9).
 - 4 Perjuror named a very gallant gentleman (5).
 - 5 President to prohibit a Japanese floral arrangement (7).
 - 6 Folk-song about former kingdom (7).
 - 7 I don't know how you can repose (3,2,7).
 - 8 Spot earth's revolution - about ten miles up in this perhaps (12).
 - 9 Garnet, say, as boss gives one a pain in the neck (9).
 - 10 The cost of swans in the river (7).
 - 11 A month on a Roman road builds up Antony's wife (7).
 - 12 Gather this is how to save money on US calls (7).
 - 13 Plots selected by TV viewer (7).
 - 14 Trace breakdown, showing something's missing (5).
- Solution of Puzzle No 16,257**
1. BISHOP OF LONDON
2. COUNTY APPOINTMENT
3. THE RIGHT MOMENT
4. CONFUSE PRICES
5. A USEFUL TOOL
6. ISRAEL'S ARMY CAPTAIN
7. LEGAL SPEAKER
8. GO IN FIRST
9. ISLANDS IN COMPANY
10. THE CAP I ORDERED
11. FREE FRENCH ARTICLES
12. KNOCKED DOWN
13. ONE OF THOSE FRAUD VICTIMS
14. GO CRAZY, LIKE KIPLING'S DITTIES
1. BISHOP OF LONDON
2. COUNTY APPOINTMENT
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5. A USEFUL TOOL
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10. THE CAP I ORDERED
11. FREE FRENCH ARTICLES
12. KNOCKED DOWN
13. ONE OF THOSE FRAUD VICTIMS
14. GO CRAZY, LIKE KIPLING'S DITTIES

Top video rentals

- 1 First Blood (Thorn EMI)
 - 2 The Thing (CIC)
 - 3 Scorpion (Precision)
 - 4 X-Files (CIC)
 - 5 Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (CIC)
 - 6 10 to Midnight (Gold)
 - 7 Poltergeist (MGM/UA)
 - 8 The Alchemist (Videoform)
 - 9 Mad Max II (Warner)
 - 10 The Concrete Jungle (Videoform)
- Supplied by Video Business

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.72	1.64
Austria Sch	28.50	27.10
Belgium Fr	33.75	32.75
Canada \$	1.32	1.26
Denmark Kr	14.78	14.00
Finland Mk	8.82	8.42
France Fr	12.32	11.82
Germany DM	4.84	4.35
Italy Lira	194.50	184.50
Netherlands Gld	1.50	1.47
Norway Kr	11.47	10.90
Portugal Esc	200.48	194.50
South Africa Rd	1.50	1.47
Spain Ptas	231.00	223.00
Sweden Kr	12.18	11.61
Switzerland Fr	3.30	3.13
USA \$	1.55	1.49
Yugoslavia Dnr	194.00	182.00

The papers

The Sun comments: "Unlike so many previous ministers, Mr (Leon) Brittan does not merely talk about doing his duty to protect the public. He is doing something about it. The Sun applauds his proposals to the minimum sentences of 20 years' for the worst categories of murderer."

Lighting-up time

Location	First quarter tomorrow
London	6.45 pm to 5.50 am
Belfast	6.55 pm to 6.00 am
Manchester	6.55 pm to 6.00 am
Perth	7.00 pm to 6.10 am

Yesterday

Location	Temperature at midday yesterday (a. 1000 ft. or less)
Belfast	10.5
Birmingham	11.0
Bristol	11.0
Cardiff	11.0
Edinburgh	11.0
Glasgow	11.0
London	11.0
Manchester	11.0
Newcastle	11.0
Nottingham	11.0
Perth	11.0
Portsmouth	11.0
Reading	11.0
Sheffield	11.0
Sunderland	11.0
Torquay	11.0
Wolverhampton	11.0
Wrexham	11.0

London

Location	Temperature at midday yesterday (a. 1000 ft. or less)
Belfast	10.5
Birmingham	11.0
Bristol	11.0
Cardiff	11.0
Edinburgh	11.0
Glasgow	11.0
London	11.0
Manchester	11.0
Newcastle	11.0
Nottingham	11.0
Perth	11.0
Portsmouth	11.0
Reading	11.0
Sheffield	11.0
Sunderland	11.0
Torquay	11.0
Wolverhampton	11.0
Wrexham	11.0

Highest and lowest

Location	Highest	Lowest
Belfast	11.0	10.5
Birmingham	11.0	11.0
Bristol	11.0	11.0
Cardiff	11.0	11.0
Edinburgh	11.0	11.0
Glasgow	11.0	11.0
London	11.0	11.0
Manchester	11.0	11.0
Newcastle	11.0	11.0
Nottingham	11.0	11.0
Perth	11.0	11.0
Portsmouth	11.0	11.0
Reading	11.0	11.0
Sheffield	11.0	11.0
Sunderland	11.0	11.0
Torquay	11.0	11.0
Wolverhampton	11.0	11.0
Wrexham	11.0	11.0

Abroad

Location	Temperature at midday yesterday (a. 1000 ft. or less)
Belfast	10.5
Birmingham	11.0
Bristol	11.0
Cardiff	11.0
Edinburgh	11.0
Glasgow	11.0
London	11.0
Manchester	11.0
Newcastle	11.0
Nottingham	11.0
Perth	11.0
Portsmouth	11.0
Reading	11.0
Sheffield	11.0
Sunderland	11.0
Torquay	11.0
Wolverhampton	11.0
Wrexham	11.0

5531 من 30